

Breezy Reminiscences

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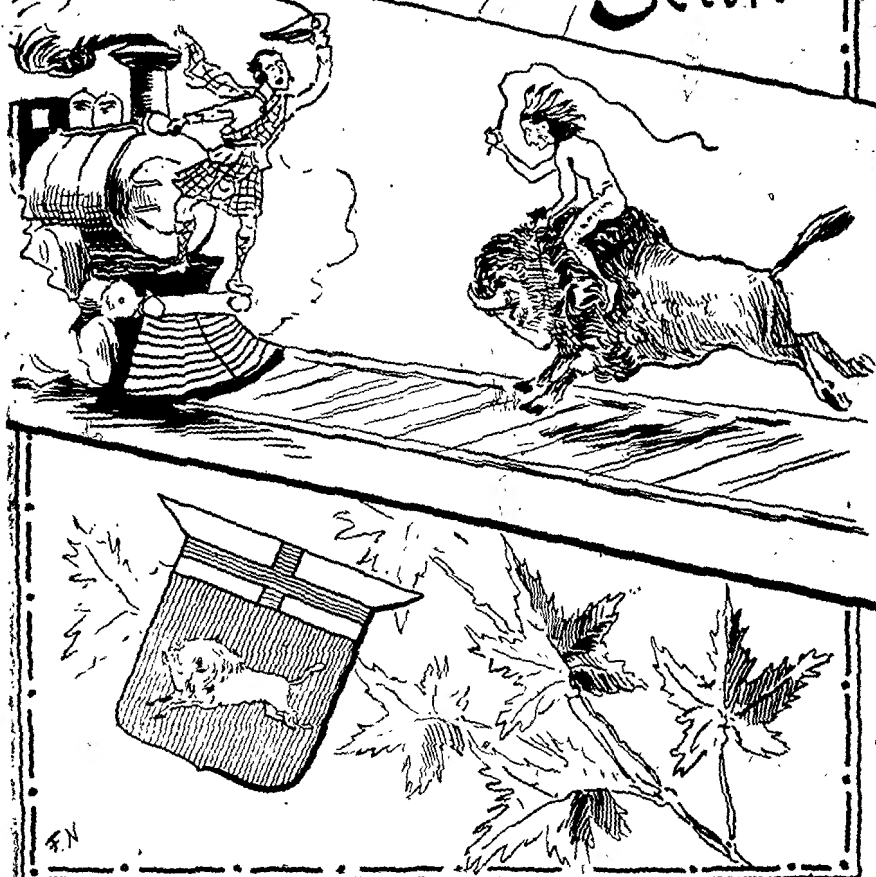
Manitoba.

By an Old Settler.



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BREEZY
REMINISCENCES OF
MANITOBA
By an
old Settler



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DEDICATION.



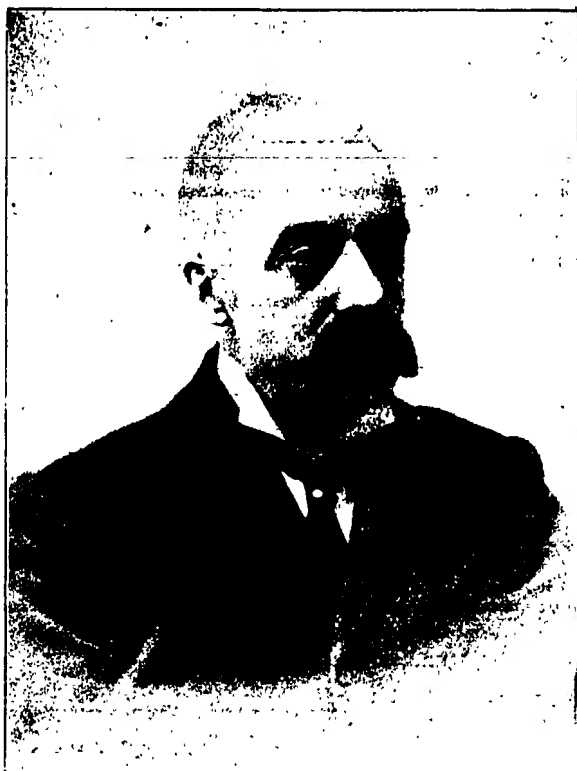
THESSE Reminiscences are respectfully dedicated to the
HONORABLE THOMAS GREENWAY, who for the last
ten years has so acceptably filled the position of Minister of
Agriculture and Premier of the Province of Manitoba, and to
whose indefatigable and persevering efforts the branch railway
system of the province has been extended, and thus been
instrumental in making Manitoba what it is to-day.



BATHING IN LAKE WINNIPEG.



DAVISON
PHOTO



THE OLD SETTLER.



INTRODUCTION.

I WAS led to write and compile the following reminiscences solely from the ever present pleasant memories which entrance me since my eight years' residence on the enchanting prairies of Manitoba, and which I conjure up as the most enjoyable and healthful period of my residence on this terrestrial ball. I am often asked regarding Manitoba, and if I were interrogated daily by all sorts and conditions of men—aye, and women and children also—as to the brightest, healthiest, and most desired spot on earth, in which to peacefully pass their lives, I would in every case with vehemence proclaim it MANITOBA—a country whose dry, bracing, exhilarating atmosphere—the home of thousands of happy, thrifty, contented families, and the land where its lucky inhabitants enjoy ninety-five per cent. of sunny days all the year round, and immunity from malaria, cyclones, and poverty—constitute it a veritable paradise.

Yours faithfully
H. Murray

BIOGRAPHY

OF

The Honorable THOMAS GREENWAY,

MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND PREMIER OF MANITOBA.

THE personality of the man who has been for a decade the Premier of Manitoba, and that during a time when history has been rapidly making, cannot be without interest for the people of the Dominion, and particularly for the people of the West. Hon. Thomas Greenway, son of the late Thomas Greenway, Esq., is the eldest of a family of five children, and first saw the light in Cornwall, England, on March 25, 1838. In 1844 Mr. Greenway's parents came to Canada, crossing the Atlantic to Montreal in a sailing ship, and then coming by vessel up the canals and Lake Ontario to Bowmanville, Ont. The family first settled at a place then called Millville, now called Hampton, a few miles north of Bowmanville, in Durham county. This district presented all the characteristics of an Ontario county partially cleared, and before the railway had burst through the barriers of forest to bring Upper Canada into close touch with the outside world. The family stayed in Durham county four years, and during this time the children attended the public schools of the district. In 1848, when the future Premier was ten years old, the family decided to move to what was then known as the Huron tract of the Canada Company's land, lying about thirty miles north of London. As there were then no railways, this journey was made by the aid of teams and wagons, and the route lay along the old Kingston mail road, through the oldest settled part of Upper Canada. The road passed through Toronto, Hamilton, and then on to London, all of which places, and particularly the latter, were very different from what they appear to-day.

THE NEW HOME.

Thus far the route had lain through a well-settled country, but the road from London to the Huron tract was through an almost unbroken forest. The travelling was so bad that it took

the party three days to cover a distance that can now be traversed in a few hours, for the roads here are now among the finest in Canada. Though Mr. Greenway, senior, did not purchase direct from the Canada Company, but from a previous settler, there was practically no clearing done on the farm, and for the time he remained here the eldest boy had a full share of the work of helping to clear off a stubborn bush. Those who have seen this work can appreciate the advantages of the settler in a prairie country like Manitoba, where one season gets a large area of land ready for crop. They arrived in September, and had only got nicely settled when, in the following January, the father and breadwinner died, leaving a young widow and family of five children, the eldest of whom was not quite ten years old. This was a dismal enough outlook, but, like the mother of many another man who has become famous, the young widow was indeed a mother in Israel. She formed the resolve to stay on the bush farm and bring up her little family. How well she performed her duty in this respect is shown by the regard in which she is held in the new community where her sons have risen to positions of prominence. She now lives at Crystal City, surrounded by children and children's children to the third generation, respected, honored, and loved.

ENTERS BUSINESS.

This farm was in what is now the township of Stephen, in the county of Huron. Settlement was not very rapid at this time, but a little later there was quite an influx, when settlers began to go into the Queen's Bush further north, being what is now part of the county of Bruce. The subject of this sketch remained on the farm until he was thirteen, when he went to London, where the next five years were spent in learning the trade of saddler and harness-maker. London has changed much since then, and has grown from a straggling, unpretentious town into a compact and beautiful city; and the saddler's apprentice has also changed much, and become the Premier of a great province, carved out of what was then far off and hazy Red River territory. On completing his apprenticeship, he struck out for the west, and spent a couple of years in various parts of the Western States. This was his first mixing with the world away from the immediate surroundings in which he had been brought up, and the wider knowledge of men and institutions thus gained served him in good stead in later years. Returning to Canada, he entered the

establishment of a general merchant at Devon, in the Devonshire settlement in Huron county, near his home, as a clerk. Making good progress in mercantile life, he afterwards went into business on his own account as a general merchant in Devon, and later, when this village was absorbed by other centres on the building of the railway in Centralia, near Exeter. In all, he was in business about ~~eleven years~~.

GOES TO OTTAWA.

During this time he became one of the prominent men of the county, and was altogether reeve of Stephen for a period of ten years. In the general elections of 1872 and of 1874, he unsuccessfully contested South Huron, as an Independent in the Conservative interest. He was, as were many others who supported Sir John Macdonald at that time, a pronounced free trader. In February, 1875, the member was unseated, and Mr. Greenway was returned by acclamation for the riding. This was the crucial period in Sir Alexander Mackenzie's *regime*. The burden of the hard times was pressing upon the people, and all eyes were upon the leader of the Government, to see what fiscal policy he would offer. When it was announced that the Liberal party would stand by the tariff as it then existed, without any increase whatever, Sir John Macdonald grasped the situation, and brought in his high tariff under the name of the National Policy. This was a day of testing and of separation, and the member for South Huron decided to stand by his low tariff principles and pledges, and those who had previously claimed his allegiance proceeded to read him out of the party. It so happened that while it was still unknown what course the respective leaders would take, Mr. Greenway was called back from Ottawa to attend an important municipal meeting in his constituency. After the municipal business was disposed of, Dominion politics were discussed, and his supporters strongly urged him to stand by his free trade principles. This is mentioned as showing the real state of a case that in some quarters has been persistently misrepresented.

DECIDES FOR FREE TRADE.

When it was finally certain that the Liberal Government of Hon. Alexander Mackenzie would not budge from its free trade position, Sir John Macdonald brought in his protectionist resolution, and Mr. Greenway voted with the Government against Sir

John. For this he was attacked most bitterly by the *Toronto Mail*, which insinuated that the promise of a position under the Government, and not Mr. Greenway's free trade principles, had influenced his vote. As soon as this paper reached Ottawa, Mr. Greenway rose to a question of privilege, and after emphatically denying the charge, asked the Premier to do him the justice to contradict the statement. The reply of the great Liberal chief-tain is noteworthy and characteristic.

Hon. Mr. Mackenzie said:—"In response to the call of my hon. friend, I feel bound to say that on no occasion has he, by myself, or through any friends or other person, solicited anything whatever at the hands of the Government, either for himself or for any public purpose even. Many gentlemen on both sides of the House have occasion to call upon me about public works in their vicinity, but it so happens that even in this connection I have had no representation of any kind from the hon. gentleman, nor have I any knowledge of any kind whatever of a desire on the part of the hon. gentleman to seek or obtain office under the Government, or any favor of any kind from the administration. I am quite sure that no offer whatever was made to him by myself or any member of the Ministry, nor had we anything to do with influencing the gentleman on the vote to which he refers. I am glad to say that although the paper in question accused the hon. gentleman of deserting his party, no Ministerial journal has accused the seven or eight Ministerial members of doing anything of that kind, because they chose regarding that particular measure to vote according to their consciences with the Opposition. The Ministerial party could afford to divide in this relation as it can afford to divide upon other matters where conscientious differences exist. I observe that there was no conscientious difference of opinion existing in this regard among the Opposition."

MOVES TO MANITOFA.

When the general elections of 1878 came on, Mr Greenway was offered the nomination by the Liberals of South Huron, but declined to run, offering to assist Mr. M. C. Cameron if he would enter the field. Mr. Cameron ran, and Mr. Greenway rendered him valuable assistance. Largely through his influence, the previous Conservative majority of 75 in Stephen was turned into a Liberal majority of about the same size. In September, following up a plan formed some time before, Mr. Greenway left for a trip

to Manitoba, which, he believed, held out greater opportunities than did the comparatively well settled province of Ontario. The trip was made by way of steamer to Duluth, thence by rail to Fisher's Landing, and thence by the Red River steamer, "International," to Manitoba. They were a week in getting from Fisher's Landing to the neighbourhood of Emerson. The party drove to the town of Nelson, from which point there was no further regular communication; and so, purchasing a yoke of oxen and a wagon, they took a survey trip through the province, camping out wherever night overtook them. In this way they travelled as far west as Rock Lake, and, coming further north on the way back, they also visited Portage, Rockwood, and also the country about Emerson on their return to the southern borders of the province. In this trip Mr. Greenway became satisfied that the best country for settlement was that lying along Crystal Creek, and accordingly arranged to return there the following spring. The party went out by rail, the railway having come up to within three or four miles of Emerson while they had been prospecting in the country. This fall was a very pleasant one, and the party camped out in a tent until about the end of the third week in November. Mr. Greenway returned to Manitoba in April, 1879, and took up his residence on the farm he at present occupies. A number from that district, about 30 in all, made entry on April 30, causing one of those periods of activity for the land office that have given rise to the phrase, "land office business," as indicating a rush. Upon this occasion it is generally accounted that the district got its name, those going to the land office together and meeting there, discussing what the little village, the centre of their new home, was to be called. Some one suggested that it be called Crystal City, after the creek which had been known for a considerable time as Crystal Creek. The name is said not to have been particularly popular at first, but later when an attempt was made to change it, or rather when a change was suggested, the name Crystal City had become so fixed that it has continued to be the designation of the town, and will likely remain to go down to posterity.

ENTERS MANITOBA POLITICS.

When the Dominion Parliament, of which he was a member, dissolved, Mr. Greenway stated his intention of retiring from politics, and this was his intention when he settled in Manitoba. It so happened, however, that in 1879, the constituency of

Mountain was set off, of which constituency Crystal City forms an important part. The settlers thus called upon to select a representative, met one day in the autumn or early winter, and for lack of any building suited for holding a public meeting, held their nomination on the open prairie. There are no records at hand regarding this meeting, but it is probable that a central spot being selected, a tent would be set up to form a gathering place, and that the speakers would address the crowd from the elevation of a wagon. The two names brought forward at this meeting were those of Mr. Robert Reesor and Mr. Greenway. The meeting went in favor of Mr. Greenway, and he accepting, was duly elected to a seat in the Manitoba legislature by acclamation in December, 1879. He has continued to sit for this constituency of Mountain without a break ever since, and has now occupied a seat in the house longer than any other member by several years. The business of the legislature at this time was not carried on on strict party lines, the house in this respect resembling the North-west Assembly for the past ten years. Whether the adoption of a system of more responsible government in the territories will have the same effect remains to be seen. Party politics did not divide the house till the sessions of about 1881 and 1882. In probably the former of these sessions, Dr. D. H. Wilson put in the heaven of party politics by a glorification of the National Policy in his speech in moving the reply to the address from the throne. In 1882, the disallowance question first caused a division on definite party lines, and ever since the legislature of Manitoba has resembled those of the older provinces in this respect.

PREMIER OF MANITOBA.

Since the life of Mr. Greenway, first as the leader of a steadily growing opposition, and for the last ten years as Premier, has been the public property of the people of the Dominion, until in fact his name is one of the most familiar to the people of this continent among the list of eminent Canadians. The chief reforms that have been made under his administration are:—The removal of the disallowance legislation, whereby the Dominion Government sought to prevent the province from bringing in railways to compete against the C. P. R. monopoly; the abolition of the use of the French language in the courts and the legislature of the province, thus effecting a very large saving; the reduction of the cost of civil government in the province, *i.e.*, the

cost of the machinery of government about 60,000 dollars per year, the expenditure of 134,195 dollars per year of the preceding government in 1887 for this purpose being cut down in 1889 to 76,561 dollars, since when it has but slightly increased in spite of the population of the province having nearly doubled; the active construction of colonization railways, and the extension and improvement of the school system, of which movement the adoption of a system of national schools was an important feature. The educational grants, which were 66,000 dollars in the last year of the Norquay administration, became 122,000 dollars in the first full year of the Greenway administration, and 165,000 dollars in 1896. As an index of the improvement of the school system, it may be noted that the Ontario department of education now accepts the Manitoba department teachers' certificates as equivalent to its own. Besides these, there have been a number of other reforms scarcely less important, such as the passing of a new judicature act, based on the famous new judicature acts of Ontario and England; the encouragement of the dairy industry; the establishment of a bureau of accurate crop statistics; establishment of provincial board of health, and provincial inspection of diseased animals; and within the last few months a provincial department of bacteriology. The premier has always been a firm believer in the future of the province, and whether in Canada, the United States, or England, has in season and out of season stood up for his adopted province. On taking office, the Premier became minister of agriculture and immigration, and has also been for a number of years railway commissioner. He has always acted as president of the council. Upon these departments in a province like Manitoba, always devolves a large share of the work of the Government.

Mr. Greenway has been twice married, in 1860 to Miss Annie Hicks, who died in 1875, and to Miss Emma Essery in 1877. He has the large family of thirteen children. In religious matters Mr. Greenway is a Methodist, one of his brothers, Rev. John Greenway, being a minister on the retired list of that denomination. Mr. Greenway visited Great Britain in 1890, and spent several months in viewing the historic places of his native land. One of his favorite lines of reading is history, and particularly the history of the development of responsible government in the British colonies. He has for several years promised himself a holiday trip to Australia, but so far has never found time in the midst of his many duties to get away.

In figure, the Premier is a stout, strongly built man; in fact,

in face, figure, and mind he resembles the typical Briton, and not least, his immediate ancestors, who, on a certain occasion, announced if their rights were not recognised,

"Then twenty thousand Cornishmen
Will know the reason why."

PARLIAMENTARIAN AND SPEAKER.

When the House is in session, the Premier, when not detained by some important deputation that has talked past its allotted hour, is usually in the House promptly on time, walking in leisurely, and talking with members and visitors in the gangway until the bell rings. From this time till he rises to pronounce the magic words, "I move that this House do now adjourn," the Premier attends strictly to the business of leading the House. No one who has had an opportunity of observing him here can doubt that he possesses legislative talents of a high order, which have been carefully cultivated. As a Parliamentarian, he has stood head and shoulders above any other member of the House for many sessions. It would be safe to say that there is no member of the House who can recall an instance where the Premier's knowledge of Parliamentary procedure has been at fault. Besides this almost perfect knowledge of procedure, he is gifted with an accurately retentive memory, which places him in possession of a full knowledge of the position of every member on every question of importance since 1879. This faculty of remembering just where the different parties and members stood on a particular occasion furnishes him with a weapon which he uses with unerring accuracy in the heat of the most unexpected debate. The hon. member is told how he voted on such an occasion, and should he deny the charge out comes the House journal with the fact in cold type. He is quick at repartee, and those who interrupt or contradict are apt to get a shot in reply hotter than they bargained for. Those who know the deliberation with which the Premier usually speaks in the House are scarcely prepared to see him hit back quick and sure in the middle of a long sentence without losing his place or breaking the thread of his argument. These interjections are more usually humorous than caustic, and the laughter that follows is general. A great many people put the Premier down for a taciturn man, when, as a matter of fact, the reason that he is not more talkative is his objection to talk for talk's sake. Unless there is occasion, he fails to see the sense of speechifying. Besides this, he has

been for about ten years Premier of a province that has had the most important questions before it, and his words, when they could be construed into some reference to the question at issue, were telegraphed to the other end of the Dominion before he had time to turn round. Such a course of training has naturally made him careful in the use of words. On the other hand, the members of the House and those who meet him every day know that he is of a genial and kindly nature, taking a keen interest in what is going on around. Those who have heard his frequent and feeling references to the leader of the late Government, Hon. John Norquay, or who witnessed the Premier's reception by the House after his serious illness of several sessions ago, cannot doubt that political difference is in his case no barrier to warm friendship.

As a stump speaker, Hon. Mr. Greenway has few equals in the Dominion. It is here that he is seen at his best. In the argument of his opponent, he has an object to talk at, and he goes straight to work, knocking pieces out of the enemy's walls at every stroke. There is probably no public man in Canada who delivers such sledge-hammer blows, and who leaves his opponent in such a used-up state as does the first minister of Manitoba when he has been properly aroused. At hundreds of meetings in all parts of the province he has sustained the reputation of a great campaign speaker.

CONCLUSION.

Mr. Greenway is a keen observer, and nothing goes on in the House that is not stored away for future use. When at his desk in his office, the Premier usually works steadily from the time of beginning work until the close of the day. It is his custom not to take any lunch, and he therefore has an hour or so in the middle of the day when he has the office entirely to himself, in which interval a good part of his work is done. When at his home in Crystal City, Mr. Greenway may be seen walking about his fields in his shirt sleeves directing farming operations—an occupation in which the ubiquitous manipulator of the vitascope has caught him, and doubtless will shortly show to the people of Canada how the Farmer Premier looks at home.

He makes an ideal leader of the House, or chairman of any gathering, not only by reason of his long experience and his knowledge of procedure, but also because of his ideas of the proper dignity due every occasion in regard to dress, speech, and



action. Whatever others may do, the Premier is found always careful of observing the proprieties.

Hon. Mr. Greenway has now been in public life for over twenty years, and for about ten years he has been Premier of Manitoba; during these years he has been called upon to decide upon many grave and perplexing questions, and fight many hard campaigns; and while he has not been able to do this without making some political enemies, his popularity is attested by his solid following in the House and country, and it is certain that his name will go down to posterity as that of one of the makers of Canadian history.



REMINISCENCES

AT the outset, I may state that Manitoba is situated near the centre of the Canadian North-West, in the eastern portion of what is known as the wheat-growing belt; and although the country is prairie, it is not one monotonous level expanse with nothing to relieve the eye.

It is everywhere undulating, with hills and valleys here and there, the former being simply eminences affording good pasturage for all domestic animals.

The world's statistics show Manitoba to be one of the healthiest countries on the globe. Its winters are cold, having a clear sky, and as a consequence, absence of humidity of other countries; the extreme is not felt with anything of the severity of other northern climes. There are no sudden changes, so that day in and day out, the people dress for cold weather, and enjoy the season thoroughly, in fact, if a Manitoban were going to Britain in winter, he would put on extra underclothing. The dry, crisp atmosphere has a decided tendency to cause an immediate glow after the slightest exercise.

In fact, the winter, which lasts with an almost uniform temperature from 1st December till end of March, is the season for enjoyment, as the exhilarating, bracing air causes the spirits to be exuberant, and resounds with the joyful, merry laugh and song of the sleighers and sweet music of the sleigh bells.

"Dashing through the snow,
In a one-horse open sleigh,
O'er the fields we go,
Laughing all the way.
Bells on bobtail ring,
Making spirits bright.
What fun it is to ride and sing
A sleighing song to-night.
Jingle, bells! jingle, bells!
Jingle all the way.
Oh! what fun it is to ride
In a one-horse open sleigh.
Now the ground is white,
Go it while you're young;
Take the girls to-night,
And sing this sleighing song.
Just get a bob-tailed bay,
Two-forty for his speed,
Then hitch him to an open sleigh,
And crack! you'll take the lead."

In the Lord Mayor's procession some years ago, Canada was represented by an artificial iceberg, beside which stood an Esquimaux, wrapped in furs, leaving only his face exposed. Thousands of people who viewed the procession went away with the idea that Canadians dressed in furs all the time and lived on icebergs.

"Our Lady of the Snows."

CANADA PROTESTS IN PROSE AND VERSE.

SINCE Mr. Rudyard Kipling's poem, "Our Lady of the Snows," appeared, Canada, of course, being referred to by that title, without exception, every newspaper and journal in Canada has entered a protest against the name, either in prose or in verse, frequently in both. The following selections have been taken at random, and are representative of the general outburst that Mr. Kipling has occasioned in our most loyal colony:

Roses at Yuletide.

(BY A MANITOBIAN.)

A poet sang of a nation in words that were kindly meant,
And his song on ethereal pulses throughout the empire went.
It breathed the imperial spirit at which the bosom glows,
But he slurred the land that he fain had praised, as "Our Lady of the Snows."

She has lands unknown to summer, but she keeps them for a park,
For such as find little Europe too small for ambition's mark.
She keeps them to pleasure Nansen; for a Franklin to repose,
But they lie remote from the marts and home of "Our Lady of the Snows."

True, she has somewhere, sometime, winters when keen winds bite,
And in the frosty heavens gleam the auroral light,
When in the drifted forest she counts the ringing blows
Of the axe that reaps a harvest for "Our Lady of the Snows."

She has woods of pine and maple, where England might be lost;
She has ports that are ever open to ships that are tempest tossed;
She has fields of wheat unbounded, where the whole horizon glows
And the hot sun laughs to hear her styled, "Our Lady of the Snow"

She has vineyards hanging heavy with clustering purple and white,
And the velvet peach in its swaying nest fills the gardener with delight:
She can pluck, if she will, at Yuletide, in the balmy air, the rose,
And the people smile when they hear her called "Our Lady of the Snows."

Our Lady of the Fogs.

IN truth, snow does associate itself to some extent with this country's climate, but when poet's sing of England they dwell less upon England's frequent fogs than upon the infrequent blue of England's skies and the rare days of English sunshine. To speak of England as Queen of the Fogs, and to exalt goloshes and the umbrella as the emblems of England at its best would not be descriptive of England. No more are snow and ice descriptive of Canada. It is true that there is occasionally good sleighing in this country. It is true that the ice crop is seldom a failure in Manitoba and other parts of Canada. But what of that! Canada sees days more beautiful than any days that ever dawn in England, and nights more splendid than the nights which wrap the resting mother land.

For a Season Only.

For a season I am, mother, your Lady of the Snows,
Yet I little like, good mother, the name your song-smith chose.

Watch, then, O, good mother, the decking of a maid,
Or, mother, watch me day upon day growing more and more fair;
Watch me put on the magic of May, and set her flowers in my hair,
But turn not your eyes then from me; I am yet but half arrayed.

Watch, and ye shall see me make bright my bodice with flowers;
Scarlet and purple and yellow, amber and orange and green.
Say if my habit is not then meet for a summer queen;
Say if one of your daughters, mother, hath fairer bowers.

For a season I am, mother, your Lady of the Snows,
Yet I little like, good mother, the name your song-smith chose.

But Hearts are Warm.

No writer is more in touch with Great Britain and her wide-spread colonies than the brilliant Kipling, who wrote "Our Lady of the Snows." If he had left the suggestion conveyed by "snow" out of his verses, we would have liked it perhaps a little better, but British writers will some day learn that we are a little touchy on this point. The occasion, however, of this poem, and the congratulations of the British press, will at least prove that the British people recognise that, if our climate is a little cold, our hearts are warm.

Queen of the Magpies.

Hail to thee, Poet Kipling,
My love to you over the sea,
With thanks for the gallant verses
You've lately inscribed to me.
At your praise in fervid English,
The flame to my cheek arose,
And my bosom heaved—tho' you call me
"Our lady of the snows."

The title is pretty, I grant you,
And I know you meant to be kind,
But I wish you could hit on another
Less risky, if you don't mind.
Of course, as implying my "whiteness,"
I modestly murmur, "It goes,"
But I fear few will give that meaning
To "Our Lady of the Snows."

You see, there's a prevalent notion—
Which does me a grievous wrong—
That my climate is almost Arctic,
And my winters ten months long...
Perhaps that is your idea,
For it's widespread, goodness knows!
And this phrase will make it more so—
"Our Lady of the Snows."

Other Products besides Snow.

THAT name that Rudyard Kipling has given to Canada, "Our Lady of the Snows," won't do. Canada has snow—lots of it; but snow is not the product that she is most proud of. India, which Kipling knows and loves so well, has immense tracts of sand, and enormous stretches of low, swampy land; but Rudyard would think twice before he dubbed India "Our Lady of the Sands," or "Our Lady of the Muds."

I do not wish to give the idea that this is a country of everlasting summer—but let our friends in the mother country see us in our summer garb, with tomatoes, melons, cucumbers, and every variety of flower growing in the open air, and they will speedily alter their erroneous opinion, and not only envy us, but at once take a notion to settle in our prairie province, with its blue sky, glorious summer lasting from April till September, followed by the enchanting Indian summer from September till December. One thing is certain, that any whom I have known

to leave Manitoba after a few years residence never rested contented until they returned. Apart from the enchantment of its climate and landscape, it is the land where Burns'

"Man tae man the worl' o'er
Shall brithers be for a' that"

has veritably come to pass.

Though it is but twenty-nine years since Manitoba was established, some 1600 miles of railway now traverse all the settled parts of the province, and render almost all parts accessible, and few farmers are more than ten miles from a market or railway.

The province is so far settled with many of the best families of the countries whence they emigrated. It is nothing surprising to find college graduates working their own farms, and experienced agriculturists, mechanics, merchants, and men of all callings in the country towns and villages.

There are no castes or classes in Manitoba, all are equal, and the highest positions in the gift of the country are open to any man who fits himself for them, and has gained the general esteem of the people.

A Proud Boast.

OUR climate is such as has always bred the strongest and most enterprising races of mankind. Our wheat lands, grazing lands, and coal mines, when developed, will be among the most productive in the world. To develop these matchless resources we have a people blended of two dominant races—a people tracing its origin to freedom, religion, and loyalty—a people which has kept itself clean from the taint of criminal and pauper immigration.

"To incite us to greatness we have all the glory of France and Britain, whose heirs we are, whose example is always before us, the seeds of whose virtues are sown in our blood. Thus peculiarly favoured by the God of Nations, we stand with our feet on the threshold of the future."

Agriculture in Manitoba is no longer regarded by anybody as an experiment; it is an established and profitable fact.

One thing is certain, we have not such a superabundant supply of the prosaic side of life as our friends in the old country have to endure, our climate no doubt being accountable for the

A Proud Boast.

Our climate is such as has always bred the strongest and most enterprising races of mankind. Our wheat lands, grazing lands, coal mines, when developed, will be among the most productive in the world. To develop these matchless resources we have a people blended of two dominant races—a people tracing its origin to freedom, religion, and loyalty—a people which has kept itself clean from the taint of criminal and pauper immigration.

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We think almost as little of removing a town a few miles as our Scotch friends would of flitting their furniture at the May term; as for shifting a house a few hundred yards is mere child's play.

Removing a Town.

THE Dauphin Railway has now been completed a hundred miles north of Gladstone. This is sixteen miles beyond the town of Dauphin. According to all reports the town is booming, and in a most peculiar manner. While the road was being constructed the two rival towns, Dauphin and Gartmore, which are four miles apart, made strong bids for the line. The contractors surveyed a town site between the two towns, about an equal distance from each other. Both Dauphin and Gartmore were moved bodily to the new town, which will be known by the old name of Dauphin. The buildings were first moved on rollers, but when snow came skids were used, and the houses were rushed over in great haste. The most peculiar part of the whole matter was that business went on while the process of moving was in operation. The Dauphin hotel started on its two mile journey on rollers, but the snow covered the ground before it had gone far, and the rollers had to be replaced by skids. This seriously delayed the work,

and the journey lasted seven days. During this time the business of the house was thriving, rooms at a premium, and the servants attended to their household duties as usual. Stores were moved in the same way. A farmer would overtake a navigating grocery store, and after tying his horse to it, would go in and make his purchases. The horse would follow the tow line, and the two would part company. When one hotel was perambulating across the prairie, a railway man stepped aboard to have some light refreshments, and left his fur gauntlets on the bar. He did not notice his loss for nearly an hour, and then had to walk a mile to overtake the hotel. The English churches of Cartmore and Lake Dauphin were drawn together and made into one church. What the congregations save by requiring only one clergyman pays the cost of transportation and joining. The buildings are now in shape, and forty of them are bunched together on the town-site.

English as the Indian Writes Her.

THE following, which is a copy of a petition for employment sent by a native Indian to an official in Winnipeg:—"Respectfully sheweth that your honor servant is poor man in agricultural behaviour, and much depends in season for the staff of life, therefore he pray that you will favour upon him and take him into your saintly service, that he may have some permanently labour for the support of his soul and family; wherefore he falls upon his family bended knees and implores to you of this merciful consideration to a damnable miserable, like your honor's unfortunate petitioner. That your lordship's honor servant was too much poorly during last fall, and was resuscitated by much medicines, which made magnificent excavations in the coffer of your honorable servant, whose means are circumscribed by his large family, consisting of five female women and three masculine, the last of which are still milking the paternal mother, and are worsiful through pulmonary catastrophe in their interior."

The Old Faith Renewed.

CANADIANS are not called upon to tell why they are glad that Victoria has reigned over sixty years, or why they rejoice over the lengthening of her days. The facts of history would supply a solid basis for their gladness, but proof of everything a man believes is superfluous, when belief in and love of Victoria is simply the old faith carried on through the years in the young

hearts of true Canadians. Canada, a British commonwealth rejoicing in her freedom, glorying in her future, and obedient to the vision of a united Empire, salutes with the ancient toast, "The Queen; God bless her."

Prairie Justice.

IN a Manitoba township a man was arrested for being drunk and disorderly. The rural policeman, wishing to get rid of the incubus, went to the local J.P.'s house and asked his attendance to hear the case. The J.P. was at that moment engrossed in cabbage-planting, but was equal to the occasion. "I'm too busy to come just now," he said; "fine the beggar a dollar and let him go." The policeman complied. Justice tempered with—vegetable production.

The Jailor's Holiday.

ONE day while strolling along the Souris river some years ago, a visitor observed a lone individual very intently fishing, and whose garb indicated that he was a convict. He looked sad and disconsolate, and on being at first interrogated as to his sad and despondent aspect, he remained sullenly silent, but on being pressed in a kindly manner to unburden himself, and that the visitor would help him in whatever way he could, the angler replied, "Well, governor, it's darned hard lines, I was sent down to that there jail on the other side of the river there to do my six months, and I'm the only prisoner and being; as the jailor and his woman wanted a holiday, they went and chucked me outside till they think fit to return, and I can't get putting in my time in a decent manner."

Manitoba can certainly boast of crime within her borders as being at an extreme minimum.

Obliging the Baptist Minister.

STRICT denominationalism is almost unknown in the prairie (this does not embrace the larger towns). In the school-houses on Sundays the Baptists will meet in the morning, the Episcopalians in the afternoon, and the Presbyterians or Methodists in the evening, and as the majority of the members of the congregations come a distance they are quite cosmopolitan, and usually worship at each of the three diets, and in some instances the leader of praise performs that function at the simple Baptist service, and

also at the more intricate service of the methodical Episcopalians, and it is not so very rare an occurrence, in the unadvised absence of the preacher, for the precentor to fill the parson's shoes also without previous warning.

In their daily avocations the Manitoba farmers are proverbial for their mutual helpfulness, and in many instances the rural parson, though college bred, takes to farming to augment his inadequate stipend, and may often be seen at work in the fields with as neatly patched clothes as the next man. I remember my first visit from a Baptist minister after taking up my abode on the plains. The Rev. Mr. F—— was announced, and my astonishment was great to find confronting me a rough-visaged man with well-patched knees. He was the Baptist preacher, and was in very truth a diamond in a rough setting as I subsequently found to my spiritual gain.

" Were I as tall as reach the clouds,
Or grasp the ocean in my span,
I would be measured by my soul,
The mind's the standard of the man."

Before being long in the country I fell into such posts as secretary and treasurer to the School Board, member of the School Board, municipal returning-officer, &c., and what might be considered a handy man where a little spouting and education filled the bill. Not long after my reception of the Baptist preacher, one Sunday morning his lady drove up to my door about two hours before church service time, and asked if I could oblige her husband by filling the pulpit for that day, as he had taken ill and could not attend; so I agreed conditionally that it be understood that I done it as a neighbourly act, and not as a consistent preacher, which was agreed to, so I had barely two hours to prepare a sermon, get into my Sunday-go-to-meeting clothes, and drive three miles to the meeting-house, where a goodly crowd were assembled. To avert my hearers criticising the consistency of my sermon, I chose for my text, " Judge not that ye be not judged, for with what measure ye meet, it will be meted out to you," and I began by impressing upon them " That those who live in glass houses should not throw stones," which had the desired effect of allaying criticism.

I was often afterwards asked to preach, but always replied that I only done so in the event of a preaching neighbour being sick.

The Sleep of the Heavy Brigade.

THE first Baptist church in Winnipeg usually had a crowded attendance of worshippers, under the stirring ministry of the late lamented Mr. Grant, a versatile Scotch preacher of wide repute. One sultry summer Sunday evening the pulpit was occupied by an old Scotch Presbyterian minister, whose slow, old-world style of preaching was the antipodes of their own revered minister. The style of oratory and the sultry atmosphere combined sent a large proportion of his hearers to sleep. The preacher was so shocked at the seeming want of interest and appreciation, that in his host's house the same evening he remarked to a circle of friends that it was disgraceful, and that he computed that at least six hundred of the congregation were asleep during the sermon. But, alas! he was not aware that a poet wag was in the circle, and he a newspaper man to boot, and consequently the city was thrown into fits when the following appeared in one of the dailies on Monday morning—

"THE SLEEP OF THE HEAVY BRIGADE."

(After Tennyson's "Charge of the Light Brigade.")

Half a nod, half a nod,
Half a nod downward,
All through the House of God,
Nod the Six Hundred.
Down went the hoary head,
So the good preacher said;
Soundly all through the church
Slept the Six Hundred.

Vainly the preacher roared,
Snugly they slept and snored,
Into the crowded pew,
Heads on the Bible boards,
Dosed the Six Hundred.

Then the precentor rose,
Right through the line he goes,
Sleeper and slumberer,
Roused by old Bangor's notes,
Looked up dumfounded,
All that awoke—but not,
Not the Six Hundred.

This sends one away back to the sleepy period in the *auld* kirks in Scotland, when a minister once stopped in the middle of his sermon, addressed personally one of his hearers, and asked, "Are ye hearin'. John?" "Aye, I'm hearin', minister, but to very little purpose," was the unexpected reply.

It's no' Scotland withoot Dumbarton Castle.

ONCE in the town of Carmen I was giving a lecture, entitled, "A Nicht in Auld Scotland," illustrated by lime-light views, and enlivened with Highland dancing and Scotch songs.

At the close of an enthusiastic meeting, one man came up to me with a woe begone face and asked why I had not shown a view of Dumbarton Castle. I explained to him that I had got that slide broken in transit; but he was not appeased, and went away murmuring, "It's no' Scotland withoot Dumbarton Castle."

"She should hae gien ye Saps."

THOSE who have spent any time in Manitoba must have been struck with the preponderance of the Scottish element which exists in some districts. This is especially the case in the Pipestone district, where I once attended a Forresters' concert in behoof of the Benevolent Fund, to assist them in their programme, and to hear the local rural vocal talent.

During the evening a Mr. M'Tavish was announced to sing "My Boy, Tammie." His appearance at once indicated a bashful, tied-tae-yer-mither's-apron-string young man. After stammering through a few lines, he began the portion, "She gien me meat, she gien me claes," when the gravity of the audience was completely upset through a person in the hall shouting out, "She should hae gien ye saps."

One Thing Americans Lack.

HAS America a national anthem? If so, I doubt if one American (Yankee) in a hundred can sing it. On a thanksgiving day some years ago, a gathering of Americans in Winnipeg were called upon by their chairman to sing their national anthem, and an effort was made to do justice to the "Star-spangled Banner." It was a lamentable failure. None knew the words; and if they had, they could not have sung the music of that abominable composition.

One thing Canadians don't lack is loyalty to the Queen and the mother country, and from one end of Canada to another can be heard in soul-stirring notes the grand old Dominion anthem, which I give in full, and which expresses the sentiments of ninety-nine per cent. of Canadians:—

THE MAPLE LEAF, OUR EMBLEM DEAR.

In days of yore, the hero, Wolfe,
 Britain's glory did maintain,
 And planted firm old Britain's flag,
 On Canada's fair domain.
 Here may it wave—our boast, our pride,
 And join in love together,
 The Thistle, Shamrock, Rose entwine
 The Maple Leaf forever.

Chorus—

The Maple Leaf, our emblem dear,
 The Maple Leaf forever!
 God save our Queen, and heaven bless
 The Maple Leaf forever.

On many hard-fought battle-fields,
 Our brave fathers, side by side,
 For freedom, homes, and lov'd ones dear,
 Firmly stood, and nobly died;
 And those dear rights which they maintained,
 We swear to yield them never!
 We'll rally round the Union Jack,
 The Maple Leaf forever!

In autumn time our emblem dear
 Dons its tints of crimson hue;
 Our blood would dye it deeper red,
 Shed, dear Canada, for you!
 E'er sacred rights our fathers won,
 To foemen we deliver,
 We'll fighting die, our battle cry,
 "The Maple Leaf forever!"

God bless our loved Canadian homes,
 Our Dominion's vast domain;
 May plenty ever be our lot,
 And peace hold an endless reign.
 Our Union bound by ties of love,
 That discord cannot sever,
 And flourish green o'er Freedom's home,
 The Maple Leaf forever!

In merry England's far-famed land,
 May kind Heaven sweetly smile;
 God bless old Scotland evermore,
 And Ireland's Emerald Isle!
 Then swell the song, both loud and long,
 'Till rocks and forests quiver;
 God save our Queen, and Heaven bless
 The Maple Leaf forever.

"What Fools Men Are."

WHEN the names of the jurymen were being called at the Brandon Court, a strong-minded, middle-aged lady answered to one, and made her way to the jury-box. The astonished usher barred the way, and cried, "You cannot come in here, madame." The woman wanted to know the reason why. Her husband had been summoned on the jury, but had been compelled to go to Oak Lake on business, "and here I am to take his place," she added complacently, "because I'm sure I could do as well as he could." She was told that women were not yet supposed to be fit for jurymen, and she must therefore go home. Thereupon the lady became very indignant at what she considered a slur on her intellect, and she left the Court, casting a withering glance of scorn all round, and exclaiming, "What fools men are!"

"The Roaring Game,"

as everybody knows, came from Scotland, but, alas, in auld Scotland some winters they do not get enough ice to play a rink, while we in Manitoba can indulge in the "rare auld game" day and night, for months at a stretch, and that under the protection of roof and walls, where you have only to open the windows to get a fresh surface to the ice, and with bonspiels lasting for a week at a stretch, where Scotsmen, aye, and English, Irish, Yankees, &c., from all parts of the Dominion and the States too, meet in Winnipeg for the great annual trials of skill in a game which has become more entrancing than any other.

To attend one of these great bonspiels one would think they were in "the heart of the Heelans of Scotland." There Gaelic and broad Scottish doric predominate, and even the born Canadian and all other races appear to catch the infection inseparable from the game, and do their best to speak the broad Scotch. At a recent bonspiel in Manitoba the following was composed by a William Strathearn, a keen curler, and sung by him at the banquet following the 'spiel to the tune of "Jessie, the Flower of Dunblane," which, needless to say, set the large gathering in raptures:—

CURLING SONG.

Auld Scotland, the land of the mountain and heather,
The land of the gowan and bonnie blue bell,
The land of the tartan, the bonnet and feather,
For deeds of bold valor nae race can excel.

The land where each glen has some tale famed in story
 Each cairn is the mark of some old hero's grave;
 The land of the chieftain distinguished in foray,
 The land of the fearless, the free, and the brave,
 The land of the peerless, the land of the peerless,
 The land of the peerless, the free, and the brave.

But grander the theme when the winter wind's snarling,
 Bring's the plaid and the bonnet, the broom and the stane,
 To the rink and the tee, to send the stone hurling
 In mimic war, fighting our battles again;
 It scorns a' pretensions to greatness or grandeur,
 It levels a' ranks when they meet round the tee;
 It knits heart to heart in friendship the stronger—
 There's no game on earth like the curling for me.

What social corps ever can equal our meeting,
 Where victor and vanquished their fight do renew;
 How warmly each heart then responds to each greeting,
 And hand grasping hand wi' a wee drap o' dew;
 Then here's to the land of the mountain and heather,
 Then here's to the land of the broom and the stane
 And here's to the time when we a' meet together
 And fight ower our battles where nobody's slain.

Scotch Indians.

FOLLOWING behind two Indians strolling down a Winnipeg thoroughfare, I was electrified to hear the one say to the other, "Jock, come on in for a gless o' beer." I made bold to question them on the subject, when they informed me they were descended from Scottish parents who had come out with Lord Selkirk when he formed the Red River Settlement, and who had inter-married with the Indians, and thus the Scots doric had been transmitted through several generations

Indian Honesty and Veracity.

A PROMINENT Western Bishop say the Indians are a very truthful race. "I have never known an Indian to tell me a lie. Last year I heard an officer in the army say, 'I have lived 21 years with the most warlike Indians on this continent—half the time I have been hunting them, and the other half they have been hunting me, and I have never known an Indian to tell me a lie' And every officer in the army will endorse this."

They are also very honest and have a dry humour. "Many years ago," says the Bishop, "I was holding a service near an Indian village camp. My things were scattered about in a

lodge, and when I was going out I asked the chief if it was safe to leave them there while I went to the village to hold a service. 'Yes,' he said, 'perfectly safe. There is not a white man within 100 miles!'"

When the Bishop was asked if he was ever in personal danger among the Indians, he replied:—"While I am satisfied I should never have been killed by an Indian who knew me, it was quite possible that some Indian who had suffered wrong from a white man might kill me—not because I was a bishop, but because I was a white man. But I never went armed. My greatest safety was in what the Indians regarded as my bravery and my confidence in them."

Here is a story showing the cute humour of the Indians. "Some years ago," said the Bishop, "a man came from the East to prevail upon the Indian to sell their lands, which were valuable, and accept a very poor country not fit for cultivation. I had warned him that he could not make such a treaty. He thought himself wiser than I, and said, 'If you won't help me to make the treaty, I will show you I can make it myself.' So he gathered the Indians together. 'Your great Father,' he said, 'has heard how much you have been wronged. He looked to the North and South and East and West to find an honest man, and so he sent me to his red children. My friends I have lived 55 years in this world and the winds of 55 winters have blown over my head and have silvered it over with grey. As a true man I advise you to accept this new treaty at once.' The moment he sat down an old chief sprang to his feet and said, 'Look at me! The winds of 55 winters have blown over my head and have silvered it with grey, but they have not blown my brains away.' That council was ended," said the Bishop, laconically.

Frozen Speechless.

THE same Bishop had an engagement to speak at a Church Conference in the village of Melita, in the month of January when the thermometer registered considerably below zero, the programme was timed by minutes, and the Bishop having a long, heavy road to sleigh through, just arrived at the minute he was timed for on the programme, his long journey in the keen air had caused his breath to form into icicles, and had thus securely frozen his heavy beard and moustache firmly together. The Chairman's A.D.C. hurried into the ante-room to see if the reverend gentleman had arrived, and on finding the state of

affairs, returned and informed the Chairman, who intimated to the gathering, "That the Bishop's voice had got frozen up, and as it would take a considerable time to thaw out at the stove, he would change places with the next speaker on the programme."

Manitoba Buffalos.

THERE is a touch of the pathetic in the extinction of any of earth's noble creatures, and in the disappearance of the buffalo of the western plains—one of the noblest of the animal denizens of this continent. Although not actually extinct, the countless herds which once roamed over the country are gone, and the survivors are likely soon to follow, in spite of the artificial resources to prolong their lives and multiply them. The commercial effect of their disappearance is seen in a greatly enhanced price for good buffalo robes and in the manufacture of substitute furs. But, as in most other lines of life, appreciation of the buffalo's skin is growing with the increasing scarcity, and it is now said in Manitoba that no other fur is so desirable as a protection from the cold weather.

Manitobians dread the Winter in Great Britain.

MANITOBIANS going to Britain in January don extra flannels. Even when the thermometer is low in Manitoba, the cold is not felt. The sun is shining, and the people are moving about; when they go home they go to a house, whether of wood, or brick, or stone, scientifically heated and ventilated; and water-pipes do not freeze, nor kitchen boilers burst in such houses.

And if one doubts whether this climate and these arrangements are good for the Canadians, you have only to look at them. If there are taller, finer, haler, ruddier people any where in the cities of the Empire, I would with alacrity travel a thousand miles to see such a spectacle. M. Rudyard Kipling has told his readers what he thought of the men and women of Canada. "This is the country," he added, "that puts the iron into a man's blood."

He might also have added that, judging by the Canadian folk, it also puts gold into his pocket, steel into his arm, and quicksilver into his step.

Genuine Essays of School Boys

In Brandon, Napuika, and Verdin, Manitoba, each shown to the author by their respective teachers:—

KING HENRY VIII. was the greatest widower that ever lived. He was born at Anno Domino in the year 1066. He had 510 wives besides children. The first was beheaded and afterwards executed; the second was revoked. She never smiled again, but she said the word, "Calais," would be found on her heart after her death. The greatest man in this reign was Lord Sir Garnet Wolsley. He was surnamed, "The Boy Bachellor." He was born at the age of 15 unmarried.

Henry VIII. was succeeded on the throne by his great grandmother, the beautiful and accomplished Mary Queen of Scots, sometimes known as "The Lady of the Lake," or "The Lay of the Last Minstrel."

The following is a copy of a genuine composition on "Breathing," written by a boy in a Napuka school:—"Breath is made of air. If it wasn't for our breath, we should die when we slept. Our breath keeps the life a-going through our nose when we are asleep. Boys that stay in a room all day should not breathe. They should wait till they get out doors. Boys in a room make carbonicide. Carbonicide is poisner than mad dogs. A heap of soldiers was in a black hole in India, and a carbonicide got in and killed nearly every one afore the morning. Girls kill the breath with corsets that squeezes the diagram. Girls can't run or holler like boys, because their diagram is squeezed too much."

School-Boy Definitions from Virden.

TITUS was a Roman Emperor, supposed to have written the "Epistle of the Hebrews." His other name was Oates.

Oliver Cromwell was a man who was put into prison for his interference in Ireland. When he was in prison he wrote "The Pilgrim's Progress," and married a lady called Mrs. O'Shea.

Wolsley was a famous general who fought in the Crimean War, and who, after being decapitated several times, said to Cromwell—"Ah, if I had only served you as you have served me I would not have been deserted in my old age."

Wesley was the founder of the Wesleyan Chapel, who was afterwards called Lord Wellington.

Hamlet was weak-minded; fond of study. But was too weak to fulfil his duty which the ghost had told him. He was very good to his mother. He profanes madness, he really only puts it on, but some people say he was mad. One day when he was fighting the king asked him if he would have something to drink,

and he had put poison in it, and Hamlet said he would wait; the Queen took it, and then she falls down dead. Hamlet immediately stabs his father, and drinks the poison and dies.

Explain the words fort and fortress? A fort is a place to put men in, and a fortress a place to put women in.

The two chief volcanoes in Europe? Sodom and Gomorrah.

Wanted a Change.

A MINISTER entered the frame house of one of the settlers in the Crofter Settlement, in Southern Manitoba, whence proceeded sounds of woe. Within a man sat sobbing over the fire.

"What's the matter, Donald?" asked the sympathetic pastor. "Oh, sir" (amid sobs), "Duncan M'Tavish's wife's dead!"

"Well, but I did not know she was any relation of yours, Donald?"

"No, she's no relation" (more sobs), "she's no; but it just seems as if everybody was gettin' a change but me."

Indians.

THE Indian population of Manitoba numbers about 20,000, located upon reserves in different parts of the country. There is a special department of State to administer Indian affairs, and the Indians are not only peaceable, but fairly contented and happy. There are over 2000 children being educated in the day, boarding and industrial schools established on and off the different reserves. These schools are numerous. The boys attending the industrial institutions are taught trades, farming, &c., and the girls sewing, knitting, house-work, &c., in addition to the ordinary branches of education. They have a large area of land under cultivation, and own live stock and implements to a considerable value.

It may be mentioned that the "Blood" and "Blackfeet" tribes were formerly among the most warlike of the Indians of the North-West, and that they have not made so much progress in the direction of civilisation as some of the Indians in other parts of the country. They still have to be maintained by the Government, and do not as yet show much inclination to work for their living. The hope, however, is entertained that the rising generation will grow up imbued with other views, as the result of the education they are receiving.

Many of the Indians have purchased agricultural machinery, chiefly mowers, rakes, and carts, on their own account, and also own the ponies and cattle they use in their work.

In the summer, the Indians much prefer to live in their tents, which are now made of canvas instead of hide, as was the case when the buffalo was plentiful. In winter most of them take up their quarters in small wooden huts which they have erected. The buildings are primitive, both in their structure and accommodation, but in some of them attempts at decoration have been made in the way of wall-papers of florid designs. The furniture is also exceedingly rough, even in cases where it is found at all, but in every one of the huts useful stoves are placed, for heating and cooking purposes. In the summer all the huts are fastened up and deserted for the tents; indeed, many of the Indians prefer the latter in winter, although the cold is sometimes intense. While it may be stated generally that the Indians have progressed in many ways, they certainly do not seem to appreciate the merits of cleanliness, and it may be that this circumstance has much to do with their preference for the tent over other forms of residences. The tent can be readily moved when the small live stock becomes too abundant, which is not the case with a more substantial structure! In addition, however, to their work, they are able to obtain any amount of shooting and fishing, and they seem to indulge largely in sport, chiefly for the purpose of food.

The Indian Industrial School deserves more than passing mention. It is doing a noble work, and upon it and similar institutions largely depends the solution of the interesting Indian problem. Efforts are being made to lift the Indians out of the wretched position they have occupied for so long, to make them appreciate the advantages of a better mode of living, and the necessity of working for a livelihood. Being kept at the schools, the children are not allowed to return to the reserves from which they came, but they are often visited by their parents. It is not an unusual, and it certainly is a pathetic sight, to see an Indian cart and pony, with the inevitable "teepee" [tent] outside the gates of the institution, and a dusky couple who have come to gaze upon their boy or girl who has been taken in hand by the Government. As the Indians have nothing to gain by making these visits, and in some cases travel hundreds of miles for the purpose, it serves to show that they have the same feelings towards their offspring as their pale-faced brethren. In addition to the industrial schools, several of which are found scattered over the North-West, day and boarding schools have been

organised on some of the reserves, but they are not spoken of very hopefully, either by the schoolmasters or by the Indian agents. The same influence and authority cannot be exerted over the children that is possible at the industrial schools, and the frequent opportunities they have of seeing their parents, and of returning to their old life and habits, tend to undo much of the good that might otherwise be expected from the working of such establishments. The head of the Institution has a staff of assistants, and the girls are looked after by a number of Sisters from some of the Conventual Institutions in Eastern Canada. The boys are taught various trades, and they seem to be very apt and very willing workers. Many of them are hired out, not only in the neighbourhood but in places some distance away, and the young mechanics are often in great demand. Naturally, they keep the buildings in proper repair, and work the farm. The girls are taught the different branches of domestic service, and also to cut out and make clothes, so that altogether the institution may be said to be self-supporting.

The process of improving the Indian is necessarily a slow one, but those who are interested in the work appear to be confident that the rising generation will prove to be a great advance upon the adults of the present day, and that they will abandon the mode of living to which their parents have been accustomed. It is interesting to know that a few cases of marriage have taken place among the elder boys and girls brought up in the institution. The young men seem to be doing well, either in farming or as mechanics in different parts of the territory.

It is not all work and no play at the institution. Among other amusements, the children have an excellent gymnasium, and a competent instructor, and some of the young people are very expert in their gymnastic exercises. They also play cricket and football, and during the last summer were able to defeat the team from the Fort, and also the team of the North-West Mounted Police. They also have a brass band, in which much interest is taken. No one who visits the institution can fail to be impressed with the value of the work that is being done, and with the brightness and intelligence displayed by many of the pupils. Both the Indian Department and those connected with the institution have cause to be gratified at the result of their efforts to improve the condition of the red man. Of course it is only a beginning, but the progress already made is encouraging, and the future is full of hope. No doubt the present policy, satisfactory though it is, may have to be developed, but the

Canadian Government is not likely to lag behind in endeavouring to solve satisfactorily the difficult problem it has taken in hand. It is unfortunate that a proportion of the young people are not as strong, physically, as might be desired, many of them showing some hereditary taint in the way of disease. No doubt their condition may also be attributed to the way in which they are brought up.

The Arctic Dog.

WE are apt to ignore the part played in Manitoba by the rough-haired, quarrelsome dogs, without whose help it would be hard indeed to cross the snow fields. Both the Nansen and our own Jackson-Harmsworth expedition owed much to these four-footed allies.

But if useful to occasional visitors and explorers, the dog is simply invaluable to the natives; a civilised nation might get along better without its horses than would the Indian deprived of his dogs. Indispensable as these are for hunting game, they become of vital importance when the snow, fathom deep, reaches above the gaves, precluding the possibility of communicating with even neighbouring tribes.

"Aca Nada."

THE origin of the word, "Canada" is curious enough. The Spaniards visited that country previous to the French, and made particular search for gold and silver, and finding none, they often said among themselves, "Aca Nada" (there is nothing here). The Indians, who watched closely, learned this sentence and its meaning. The French arrived, and the Indians, who wanted none of their company, and supposed they also were Spaniards come on the same errand, were anxious to inform them in the Spanish sentence, "Aca Nada." The French, who knew as little of Spanish as the Indians, supposed this incessantly recurring sound was the name of the country, and gave it the name of "Canada," which it has borne ever since.

Mixed—Slightly.

THE following story comes from Souris. Some time ago a teacher thought he would take two standards at once, the VI. in arithmetic and the II. in dictation. The sum was: "If a couple of fat ducks cost $2\frac{1}{2}$ dols., how many can I get for $38\frac{1}{2}$ dols.?"

while the dictation began: "Now as a lion prowling about," etc. The result was that one poor little girl wrote: "Now a couple of fat ducks prowling about in search of a lion who had lost $2\frac{1}{2}$ dols.;" while a boy was found puzzling over the following sum: "If seven couple of fat lions cost $2\frac{1}{2}$ dols., how much prowling about could be got for $38\frac{3}{4}$ dols.?"

In the same school a bright youth produced the following Essay on "The Ostrich."

"Every one has seen an ostrich, and perhaps not. It makes its nest in the sand, because it cannot climb trees. The ostrich is found in the desert of Africa, and in Cape Colony, where the farmers grow them and send them home. Three of its feathers adorn the Prince of Wales' head. It feeds on sand and stones. It is a very silly animal, and has only three toes. The ostrich lives in singles and doubles. The number of eggs it grows in a day is two or three. When they are running they run zig-zag, and paddles along. They is very frightened, but is easily tamed. The boys of Africa rides on their back, and when they won't go, gives them a strike on the eye. The ostrich is about six inches high, the size of a horse. It is used for eating worms, and a great many other things. When it walks it goes from side to side, so it is not used to pull a cart. At the same time it is quite able to do so. It has ducks feet to walk across the sand; if it had hen's feet it would sink. It is swift futed. When the ostrich is hunted, it sticks its head in the sand, and begins to look for food."

Yankee Sailor Yarn.

"EXPERIENCE," said the man who had been telling tales of the sea, in a Winnipeg store, on a cold winter day, "is a great thing. But it gets in the way sometimes. I'll never forget the last shipwreck I was in, you bet." "It must be terrible," said the boy whom he was entertaining, "to be adrift on the ocean."

"It is rather trying to realise that land is miles away, no matter whether you measure sidewise or straight down. But this shipwreck wasn't on the ocean."

"But you said you had sailed the whole Atlantic?"

"Yes. That's where I got my experience. But it was on Lake Winnipeg that I found myself with nothing to tie to except an old wash-stand. It was three days before I was picked up."

"Weren't you almost dead?"

"Pretty near."

"From hunger?"

"Partly that, and I suffered some from thirst. But the most of it was humiliation. The first thing I asked for was a drink of water. I had suffered agonies. My throat was parched and my tongue felt like a herring. One of the men in the boat looked at me as if he thought I was delirious, but when I repeated my request, he took a tin can, leaned over the side of the boat, and dipped me up a drink. Then I realised for the first time that I was on fresh water instead of salt, and that there wasn't the least excuse for a sane man's going thirsty a minute. Experience is a great thing, my boy. Never turn up your nose at it. But remember that it is as likely as not to run you into trouble if you haven't commonsense as a compass to steer by."

Extortion for the Church.

ONE hundred women of the fashionable Congregational Church, Winnipeg, agreed each to earn one dollar by her own efforts and contribute it to the church. When they reported, one had shaved her husband; another got five cents whenever she got up before her husband. Another offered to launder for her son, and got one dollar for letting the shirts alone. Still another got the money by not singing a song. One woman starved her husband till he "shelled out."

The North-West Mounted Police.

THE immaculateness in the uniform of the British soldier, known as the North-West Mounted Policemen, always impressive, becomes doubly so in the careless rough-and-tumble West. One would think that the example set by the Indian and the cow-boy and the rancher, in the way of negligé attire, would be too much to withstand, and that officers would forget caste distinctions and fraternise with the privates out of sheer loneliness and need of human companionship; but the discipline of the British army is maintained in all its integrity, and the "Eyes r-right!" and "Attention!" are as grim as at Aldershot, and the men as well uniformed and disciplined as though they were under the eye of Field-Marshal Lord Wolsley himself.

When you reach the Fort you are more than ever impressed by this. There are long, neat rows of officers' quarters, and a

big guard-room, and the Union Jack floating from the big mast, and privates to be seen in brilliant tunics and "pill-boxes," or sometimes, as a concession to the fierceness of the sun, a sombrero, tied on under the short black hair with a string, just as the Harrow boys wear their sailor hats.

The little detachment has order and discipline, in miniature, it is true, but as rigid and as effective as if it had to do with a thousand men instead of six or eight.

Perhaps it is this untiring vigilance and discipline that makes the North-West Mounted Police such a power in the country over which it is scattered. Or more probably it is because a great many of its 1000 men are gentlemen by birth and education, and who, through some fault of their own, or fate, or circumstances, have lost their birthright, and the opportunity of using their education. So they become machines of the Canadian Government, and the Queen, through her Governor-General, acting through his Minister of the Interior by way of the Commissioner, gives him a regimental number, and a coat, and a Lee-Metford rifle, and 50 cents a day to start with, and he studies his Manual of Arm, and invents a new name for himself, and tries to forget who he once was. Sometimes he succeeds, and sometimes he does not.



Prospects of Manitoba.

REV. C. A. EATON, Pastor of Bloor Street Baptist Church, Toronto, when interviewed said, speaking of Manitoba and the state of the church in this country: This is a critical moment in the history of the Baptist denomination in the west. The death of Alexander Grant removed a great leader, but his removal has been followed by an increase in the sense of responsibility among the people at large. The Baptist body there, is moving forward very rapidly. They are now preparing to found a college. They feel the need of grappling with the problem of home missions in the northwest in common with all other Christian bodies. At Rat Portage they have within a year organized a church under the pastorate of Rev. Fred. T. Tapscott, and have built one of the finest church edifices in the country. I preached the dedication sermon last Sunday. At the convention in Winnipeg I delivered a number of addresses, my object being to bring the two sections of people into more close and vital touch. I had not been in the west a day before I caught the spirit of the place sufficiently to regret the strange lack of superlatives in our language for the purpose of adequate expression. We cold-blooded easterners hear a western man talk and at heart we half suspect that he is a trifle beside himself. But a few days of life in the Manitoban country removes that impression.

Social and Economic.

"MANITOBA is one of the finest countries I have ever visited. It is certain to be one of the most important sections of our country. The farmers, especially this year, are feeling very hopeful. The crop outlook could not be better. The very large prosperity that they had last year has cleared them of mortgages and debts, and has placed them upon a solid footing financially, and a spirit of the utmost hopefulness pervades all classes of the people. The first thing that struck me among the people themselves was a certain largeness of view, which in the staid and finished east is remarkable in its absence. A western man cannot deal with small subjects or have small thoughts. The fundamental problems of human life are before him perpetually.

Fifteen thousand immigrants, for instance, have poured through Winnipeg this year. Take the Galicians. These are a people degraded by long oppression and repression. It is hard to tell a man from a woman among them by their dress. The problem presents itself at once. How are these people to be reached, evangelized, educated, made into Canadian citizens, with Canadian ideals? Every earnest-minded man sees and faces these problems. They take him out of himself, they enlarge his vision, they make him a bigger and better man. For this reason I expect that the very finest type of Canadian citizenship will be produced in the west.

Future of the Country.

"There is absolutely no doubt as to the future of the country. The pioneer days are over. Towns like Brandon, fourteen or fifteen years of age, have the appearance of a century's growth in solidity and refinement of life. Winnipeg, the gateway of the West, is improving every year. They are expending enormous sums of money in paving and beautifying the streets. Broadway is a boulevard that would do credit to any city on the Continent. Fine residences are going up on all sides, and there is an air of prosperity and thrift which is very wholesome. There is a moral integrity in everything except politics that is delightful to meet. As they say, 'No man can get on in business here who is not square.' But if once he resorts to 'ways that are dark and tricks that are vain' he finds his career as a business man hopelessly blighted. There is a ruggedness of manhood, which perhaps is taken on by life in that large new country.

"Hospitality! Hospitality is a supreme word in the West. The country itself waits for the incoming settler, and offers him a home comfort, and even wealth. The people are progressive. They must be. Their minds are open to all good new ideas. They are just conservative enough to give solidity to the social and political structure they are building. The homes of Manitoba have a hospitality distinctly their own. It may be a cold country in winter—although every loyal North-Westerner would consistently deny it—but in winter and summer there is a warmth of welcome and of friendship. I met some of the strongest men, intellectually and morally, that it has ever been my privilege to know, and I came away feeling as I never felt before the greatness of Canada.

Railways and Booms.

"Travelling from Toronto to Winnipeg, through the vast wilderness, about the head of Lakes Huron and Superior, one cannot but be impressed with the daring and the determination necessary to build such a highway as the Canadian Pacific Railway. And there is no doubt that this road is one of the most important factors in the building up of this country. In the West, however, there is a feeling that they must have better terms for the carrying of their produce, and they are arguing on all sides that it would be to the advantage of the road financially to reduce its rates both for passenger and freight traffic. There is great expectation for the new road to be built from Port Arthur to Winnipeg from the Rainy River district, and it looks as though there is some ground for this expectation.

"I never realised what a boom meant till I saw Manitoba. A village of 500 inhabitants, for instance, was laid out in a town site nine miles square, some of the land being under water, but making, of course, no difference in their selling qualities in the eastern market. The boom in the west, as in the east, is simply a gambling mania, which, like an epidemic of measles, seizes upon a community, and all the good, pious people simply gamble with blocks of land instead of cards, and in the end it happens that the lucky players have the money, the large number who are unlucky have the experience, and nobody wants the land.

Educational Growth.

"Educationally one must be struck with the solid foundation that is being laid in Manitoba. The Methodists have a fine college in Winnipeg, the Presbyterians and Church of England also; the Roman Catholics have their schools, and there is a provincial Normal school as well as fine collegiate institutions in towns like Brandon. The Brandon building cost some 27,000 dollars, and is a model in all that goes to make a modern school-room. The Baptists are now organising their university. The long winter evenings give opportunities for farmers' sons and daughters to attend such institutions of learning. The public schools are the point of contact and fusion for the diverse elements in the population. Seventeen nationalities were found among the children attending one of the public schools in Winnipeg, and these seventeen nationalities would be lost in a

common Canadianism before the children graduated from that school. This fact alone illustrates the whole theory that underlies the public school system of the province. There is no doubt that the citizenship of Manitoba will equal any part of this continent in its standard of culture within a very few years.

"And now, in conclusion, let me say that if I had the ear of the young manhood of the east I should say to them:—'If you are willing to work, if you wish to succeed, if you wish to be certain of an honorable, useful, and profitable career, go west.' There is no room there for loafers, for soft-handed parasites, but there is room for men.' It is a man's country; its undeveloped resources pass the ability of figures to express the grain fields of Manitoba, and the North-west are simply gold growing out of the ground. There is room for indefinite expansion in every direction."

Advice to Immigrants.

THAT it is possible to secure a large degree of success in the North-west is evident from the numerous comfortable homes scattered throughout nearly every section of country, the rapidly increasing trade returns, and the general signs of prosperity on every hand.

From the experience based on a twenty years' residence here, I consider that success largely depends on the following conditions, and I will place them in what I consider the order of their importance.

The immigrant should be a practical farmer or farm labourer. Some of the clerks, book-keepers, merchants, &c., who have attempted farming here have succeeded, but, as a rule, the chances of success are against them.

The immigrant must, of course, be healthy, industrious, energetic, not easily discouraged, and ready to adapt himself to new ideas and modes of farming, and at the same time not easily led into the slipshod farming so prevalent in some parts of the province.

Although I know a number of men who arrived in the country at an advanced age and have made comfortable homes for themselves, I would not advise persons over fifty years of age to immigrate unless they have friends here to assist in making them contented. It is often difficult for elderly persons to form fresh ties in a new country.

Since the introduction of, harvest excursions, an active, healthy person, say between the age of 18 and 50, has an excellent opportunity to reach here at a low cost, obtain a summer's work at good wages, and at the same time obtain an accurate knowledge of the country and its possibilities during a favourable season of the year.

Persons who have not friends here to advise them, &c., and can afford it, should spend a few months in looking over the country before locating permanently, or else lease an improved farm until they can select a free homestead or can purchase an improved place for themselves.

The capital required will depend very largely on circumstances. Hundreds of single young men having a fair knowledge of farming, with energy, industry, and perseverance, have succeeded with a few hundred dollars of capital; while others, without experience, or with careless or indolent habits, have failed, even with thousands of dollars, and it is a well-known fact that success here depends more on a man's character than on the amount of capital he can command. Still a person proposing to homestead, with a family to provide for, should have sufficient money to purchase necessities for eighteen months, besides the regular outfit for a farm. This outfit, however, need not be very expensive at the start, and will vary from 500 to 1000 dollars, depending on the ideas and ambitions of the settler. Probably the average capital of the homesteader in the early history of the province was about 1000 dollars, and this amount will certainly go further now than at that date.

If the immigrant has fully decided to settle in the province, and has a very general idea where to locate, he should reach the province during the month of March, so as to be ready to commence farming operations at the opening of spring, which occurs usually during the first two weeks of April, but if the intending settler wishes to spend a few months in prospecting before settling down, he should visit the province during the fall, which can be done very cheaply by means of the harvest excursions.

Homesteads can be obtained in many parts of the province, but the best selections can only be had at points some distance from railways, as desirable districts are seldom allowed to remain long without a railway. It generally happens that by the time produce is ready the railway is at hand to ship it out of the country.

Where the family is composed of a number of grown-up sons and daughters, it is an excellent plan to rent an improved farm near the railway, put in a crop in the spring, then between seed-time and harvest the young men of eligible age can take up homesteads, do breaking, and erect small houses preparatory to their permanent occupation after the grain is harvested and threshed on their rented farm. This plan has many advantages. It provides immediate shelter for the family without expense, and they have an opportunity to become acquainted with the ways of the country, earn a little money, and the change from the older settlements of the East is more gradual. There is also more time available to select a permanent homestead.

The outfit required will vary with the amount of capital available, but the following articles are absolutely necessary for the first eighteen months, or until the first crop can be threshed, and if the capital permits many others can be added with advantages:—

Food for eighteen months.

A team of horses or oxen, with harness.

One plough, one set of harrows.

One waggon, picks, shovels, carpenters' tools, scythe, grindstone, &c.

A little household furniture, including a good stove.

By no means buy implements or grade cattle in the eastern province for use in Manitoba; they can be purchased more suitable and cheaper here.

It would be impossible to give a detailed statement as to how a settler should carry on the work of a pioneer for the first two years, but the following suggestions will be found useful.

Great care should be exercised in the selection of land; the soil should be deep and rich, free from stones, naturally well drained, not difficult to bring under cultivation; within reasonable distance of fuel, with a good water supply, and in the midst of a large area of good land; otherwise the settlement will be thin, and it will be found difficult to establish schools, churches, &c.

Having carefully selected his homestead, the settler should endeavour to make it his home, and not encourage the thought of selling out in a few years. This will lead him to make permanent improvements, such as the erection of suitable buildings, the enclosing of a vegetable garden, the planting of trees, &c.—all of which tend to make him a better citizen and his family more contented with their surroundings.

Although good farming in the eastern provinces is in many respects similar to the same class of farming in Manitoba, there is still much for the new settler to learn, and he should be open to receive suggestions from older residents, and readily adapt himself to the conditions peculiar to a prairie country—such as breaking the virgin sod thinly during May or June, back-setting the same when well rotted, rushing the sowing in spring, and the harvest in the autumn, remembering that the older settlers have founded their practice on experience gained by many years' residence.

Farmers are quite neighbourly in Manitoba, and are always ready to assist the new-comer, particularly if he shows himself friendly.

A new-comer should carefully husband his capital until he has a thorough knowledge of his requirements, remembering that he can often make one hundred dollars go further after a year's experience than two hundred dollars on his arrival.

In conclusion. I would say to any farmer in the old country, who is not prospering there, or has a family of boys he is anxious to settle on farms of their own, do not hesitate to come to Manitoba. The climate is healthy, schools and churches are plentiful, the soil is rich and easily worked, live stock is healthy, good homes can easily and quickly be obtained, you still remain under the good old flag, and law and order is as strictly enforced as in the eastern provinces.



OX TEAM PLOWING.

MORE REMINISCENCES.

Everybody Warned.

A MANITOBA rancher has posted the following notice on a tree near his place;—"My wife, Sarah, has left my ranch when I didn't Doo a Thing Too her and I want it distinkly understood that any Man as takes her in and Keers for her on my account will get himself Pumped so Full of led that some tenderfoot will locate him for a mineral claim. A word to the wise is sufficient and orter work on fools."

"Honest Injun."

A CURIOUS account is given by Mr. Grose, who has just returned from a tour of exploration in the Canadian North-West, concerning the law of cache. A man going along wishes to leave, say, his coat behind, for reasons of personal comfort. He hangs it on a tree, and it will be there for him if he does not return for a week. Similarly the ownership of a suspended gun or rifle is respected. Mr. Grose says a man would be safe in hanging his watch and chain on a tree with the assurance that it would be there when he returned to claim it. A cache of provisions is subject to a slight modification in respect to the rule of inviolability. A hungry Indian discovering such will make a fire in front of it, to make it apparent that there is no secrecy intended in connection with his visit. He will then take from the cache sufficient food for his immediate needs and pass on without touching anything more.

Happy Canada.

TROUBLE nearly everywhere but in Canada. In no part of the Dominion is there any marked friction among the people, while the season's promise is that of unsurpassed abundance. As regards all material reckonings, Canada is at present the happiest land under the sun.

A World-Wide Trouble

APELE, an Indian woman, to whom I was married by the Vice-Consul in 1886, having long since refused to obey my lawful commands, and contrary to my express orders, associating with and following the advice of unscrupulous, scheming, and worthless persons; and having on July 23 last left my home, bag and baggage, to live among the Indians, and being now away down South-West with natives without my consent, I hereby again give notice that I shall not recognise any debts contracted by her, nor in any way be responsible for her acts.

Patent Medicine Testimonials.

(From a Rural Manitoba Paper.)

"I HAVE been unable to walk without crutches for many years, but after using your liniment I ran for office." "I lost my eyesight four years ago. I used a bottle of your eyewash and I saw wood." "I have been dumb ever since I was married, but the day after using your remedy, I had a speaking likeness taken at the photographers." "Some time ago I lost the use of both arms. Shortly after buying a box of your pills I struck a man for ten dollars." "I have been deaf for many years, but after using your ointment I heard that my aunt had died and left me five thousand dollars."

A Practical Pastor.

SERVICES had just begun on Sunday morning in a church on the Prairie when the skies began to darken. At the conclusion of the first hymn, the pastor prepared to read the Bible lesson, but paused to look out of the window. He closed the book and said—"Brethren, I believe in worshipping God, but a heavy rain is coming up, and neighbour Reppelye's wheat is in danger. We will close the service and help him to stack it." All hands, pastor included, went to work and finished the job before a heavy downpour.

The Grave of a Red Indian Baby.

THE red man has his idea of Paradise. He looks forward to the happy hunting-ground where his soul may roam after death. But what pleasurable prospect does this place offer to his wife

and children. The North-American Indians do not bury their dead out of their sight, but they deposit the mortal remains in trees, or on scaffolding, sometimes reverently covering them with a canopy. They often leave close at hand the club, the axe, the bow, or whatever the departed has used in work or pleasure.

In some tribes, when a baby dies, the mother's ardent desire is to persuade his freed spirit to stay with her until age and experience in the new life have armed him against the temptations that he must meet on the road to Paradise; for he has not yet escaped danger and evil. She collects his small belongings, his cradle, and various things in which his little heart delighted, and carries them on her back.

In long, weary journeys she will nurse a bundle of toys and baby clothes as tenderly as though it were the lost burden that love made light. Sometimes this "doll of sorrow," the object of her caresses and coaxing words, may be little more than a bunch of feathers, but the red woman hopes that her arts and graces may prevail over the love of liberty and adventure that are inborn in her people.

It takes long for an anxious mother's mind to rest in the belief that her child can do without her care, and she may lay down the treasures beside his grave.

The Great Spirit is too high and lofty to attend to trifles that are all the world to her.



INDIAN GRAVE ON THE MANITOBA PRAIRIE.

MORE PRAIRIE SCHOOL ESSAYS.

Schoolboy's Natural History.

WHAT would Dr. Nansen say to this bit of natural history, which has just come as a curiosity from the head-master of one of our Board Schools? "The polar bear inhabits the northern districts, and has a white coat. In the summer it feeds on seal, in the winter it is known to break into houses and kill the owner and eat him. He is very fond of honey, and often robs a bee-hive. When the bees find the bears inside (!) the hive they sting it and the bear goes away. Sometimes the bees sting the poor bear so much that he goes away winning (whining) like a child. He is not long before he comes back again; he repeats this till he has robbed the hive of its honey. The bear is a sagacious animal because he knows where to find honey." In the same essay there are some curious views on the elephant. "The elephant is a tremendous great animal, with a large trunk, which acts as a hand to it (admirable idea!). The elephant is the largest and strongest human being with four legs living on the earth."

What Some Animals Eat.

THE northern range of the horse and ox now far exceeds the natural food limit. The Shetland pony could always pick up a bare living, but the Iceland pony has during the winter absolutely no natural food supply. A few are taken into the houses, but the greater number are turned loose by their owners, and have for sole support sea-weed and the heads of dried cod. The Norwegian cow, spending the winter inside the Arctic circle, was formerly fed largely on soup made out of boiled fishes' heads, and the diet seems to have agreed with them. In 1833 in Australia throughout a large district the sheep became not only carnivorous but cannibal. The sheep of the Murrumbidgee country became addicted to eating a salt-impregnated earth found on the runs, and after some time became thin and emaciated. They then attacked the new-born lambs, and devoured such numbers that in one flock only four hundred were left out of twelve hundred. Even the shepherds were attacked by the sheep when rescuing the lambs and their clothes bitten,

THE WORLD'S GREATEST RAILWAY.

A Chat with Sir W. Van Horne.

THE Americans have never quite forgiven our Canadian brothers for establishing and owning the greatest railway on earth, but one thing they never can forget is the fact of the latter's having taken from them the greatest railway genius on earth.

To be president of any railway is no frivolous distinction, but to be president of the Canadian Pacific Railway is to occupy a position whose analogous importance ranges between that of the Czar of all the Russias and of Mr. Whitely or Mr. John Wanamaker. After Mr. Laurier, Sir William Van Horne is surely the second man in Canada. Never were the destinies and present fortunes of a great country and a great private corporation so closely interwoven as in the case of the Canadian Dominion and the Canadian Pacific Railway Company.

Everything which benefits the one benefits the other, and if one prospers or languishes the commercial pulse of the other rises and falls. And it is doubtful if any other agency has contributed more to the welding together of the Great Dominion from its eastern to its western extremity than this great enterprise, which, in addition to the lines which it has built or absorbed in the Eastern Provinces, has all the great, undeveloped North-West practically to itself.

Who is Sir William Van Horne? If ever a man was the genius of an enterprise it is Sir W. Van Horne—if ever an enterprise depended on the genius of a single man it is the C.P.R. Yet thirty years ago Sir William was a telegraph operator in an obscure Maine village, where he fell in love with and married the village school teacher, and to-day he is a millionaire, a patron of art and literature, and an artist himself, who lives in a mansion, which is one of the art treasure-houses of the American continent, and who is believed, at least by the Yankees, to be one of the foremost political forces in Canada.

A large, stout, bearded man of fifty, with a certain awkward restlessness of manner, which fluctuates between bashfulness and vehemence—a pair of keen grey eyes and a bald head—and I found myself face to face with the man I came to see. But

Sir William Van Horne has a habit of overturning first impressions, and the man I saw in the third storey of the great stone castle of the C.P.R. was not at all the individual whose guest I was later at a certain mansion in Sherbrooke Street. One is the railway magnate, the other is the artist and connoisseur, whose conversation for hours runs on Whistler and Delacroix and on Japanese pottery. There is nothing like knowing a thing properly; and if the visitor takes away any strong conviction, it is that Sir William knows thoroughly every spot and sign in that vast chart of the Dominion of Canada.

"We in Canada are doing business up a back street," said he with peculiar emphasis. "A man may construct a great building, he may shout as hard as he likes, but if people do not come to that back street and see that big house, that man will not prosper—at least, he will not prosper as he should.

What we want is people—people to settle the great North-West—people to mine in that great mining country. Every farmer means to us so many bushels of grain—every mine so many tons of ore and produce and freight of every description. As to the country at large, what we stand in immediate need of is a fast passenger service between Liverpool and Montreal."

"When will this be accomplished?"

"The tenders have been made to the Government; but nothing definite will be brought about until Mr. Laurier goes to London in June. One cannot underestimate the great importance of the tourist traffic. Every tourist who derives pleasure and convenience from his journey is a standing advertisement for the country. At present the bulk of the tourists go to New York, because they can reach a North-American port more quickly in that way. Not one tourist in fifty comes to Canada at all, and if he takes the advice or the opinions of the average New Yorker or Chicagoan, he is not likely to come. What we propose by this fast line is to put the European traveller sooner in Chicago or the Western cities *via* Montreal than he can now reach them *via* New York. It has been my life-long experience that prosperity always lines the main thoroughfares, and that anything off that thoroughfare, even though it be really richer and better, is in a back street, with a back street's business.

"By way of illustration," continued the C.P.R. president, thrusting his hands deep into his trouser pockets, "there are hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of property in the city of

Vancouver alone which has been built and owned by tourists—or men passing through the country for their convenience. A man is always apt to think more of a territory than he knows, and if he sees rich prairies or good mining country in the States, he is more apt to recommend them to his younger emigrating friend than some equally fertile or productive country in Canada which he never saw in his life.

"I have observed," continued Sir William, "that the English emigrant thinks a good deal harder and shrewder about what country or colony he is going to than about what man or policy he is voting for. It is the 'bread-basket' he is thinking most about. Yet he is appealed to by a big cry, a big boom, a big concrete fact. And the Yankees have somehow managed—without superior natural resources than Canadians possess—to launch in Europe the biggest cries, the biggest booms, and the biggest placards extant."

It is Sir William's opinion that the day of mixed freight and passenger ocean steamers is nearly over, and that the new Transatlantic boats must be constructed with a view to carrying exclusively either the one or the other. Greater speed can thus be obtained for the one—the passenger, and lower charges for the other—the freight. The C.P.R. has not constructed a Transatlantic service of its own, because of the want of a terminus—such as Halifax or Sydney, at which ships and locomotives might communicate. I may add, it seems probable the Allan Line will ultimately get the Government subsidy and contracts for the mails.

The marvellous many-sidedness of President Van Horne is, as I have hinted, only revealed to you when you spend, as I have spent, the best part of a day with him under his roof. It is not merely that he buys good pictures, and smokes good cigars, and drinks good wines—the common or garden millionaire can do that—but there are precious few American railway men—be they millionaire or otherwise—who can not only criticise, but sit down and paint a picture that will pass for a Teniers by a college professor, who can read Spanish and Italian and Japanese with facility, and who can tell you the period, the value, and the name of the maker of any Chinese or Japanese vase or bowl you chance to hand him that has been fashioned any time these two hundred years. You don't run across these men every day in the street.

Sir William Van Horne is an Imperialist of the true practical type, and a valuable ally to the cause of Imperialism. He is not a "cheap" man, of cheap ideas, which he is ready to sacrifice to the opportunity of the moment. He thinks deeply and resolutely, and when this man made up his mind to abandon his American citizenship and cross the border, and enrol himself as a citizen of the Empire, it was the result of a conviction none the less steadfast now because it has not yet been completely realised



Winnipeg.

WINNIPEG, the capital of Manitoba, is situated about half-way between the Atlantic and the Pacific, at the confluence of the Red and the Assiniboine Rivers, and is the most important place in Canada west of Ontario. The city is comparatively modern, dating from the time of the transfer of the Hudson Bay Territory to Canada and the formation of the Province of Manitoba. At that time, in 1870, it had a population of two or three hundred, but to-day the number of the inhabitants probably exceeds 36,000.

In the early days of the settlement the only means of access was by road over the prairies from the United States. Later on, in the seasons of navigation, boats of shallow draught plied occasionally from Minnesota down the Red River to Winnipeg. The first railway was from Emerson to Winnipeg, but it was only in 1878 that this communication was enjoyed. With the active construction of the Canadian Pacific Railway, however, both Winnipeg and the country tributary to it rapidly developed, and in 1886 the Transatlantic line, running through Winnipeg, was open from ocean to ocean. Further developments in railway communication have been taking place ever since, and seven or eight lines of railway now converge upon Winnipeg. Manitoba is probably better served with railways than any other community in the world, having regard to its size and population. If report be true, it is not improbable that a line may shortly be constructed later on to Hudson Bay—at any rate, this is the belief which prevails at the present time in Manitoba. The rivers passing through Winnipeg are not now used for navigation to any extent, the water having fallen below the level it formerly occupied.

Those who knew Winnipeg—or rather, the site on which it now stands—in the old Hudson Bay days, must marvel at the metamorphosis which has taken place in comparatively a few years. Fort Garry, as the place was called before the Province was formed, was always the leading Hudson Bay Post in the Western Territory. In fact, the only piece of antiquity Winnipeg possesses is the old gateway of the Fort. and, unless measures

are taken to preserve this interesting relic, it will soon crumble away. It will be remembered that Fort Garry received a good deal of advertisement during the days of the first Riel Rebellion, and it is not too much to say that the story of its wonderful growth and development has been advertised ever since, as few places have been so much talked about in the last few years as the Prairie City. Of course, it has had its ups and downs, like all other places. It had its boom in 1882, when people went crazy in their desire to dabble in land—an era in gambling, in which all, men and women, preacher and layman, rich and poor, speculated, and colossal fortunes, on paper, were made daily. Men talked in thousands as glibly as they now do in hundreds; lots were quoted at fabulous sums per front foot; land in the suburbs, two, three, four, or five miles from the business centre, was surveyed into lots, and purchased at high figures. Naturally, the reaction set in, as it always does, and for a year or two depression prevailed; but confidence was restored in time, and in a quiet, business-like manner, the city began to prosper again on a solid foundation, and has continued to progress.

The site of Winnipeg is a very eligible one for commerce, and this explains, to a large extent, the development that has taken place. It is the distributing centre for supplies to all parts of the country to the west, and it is also the great grain and cattle market, besides being the seat of the manufacturing industry of Manitoba, such as it is. The city has certainly been laid out with a view to its future growth. The principal street—Main Street—is about two miles long and 120 feet wide. Many of the shops and business buildings are of a substantial character, and of creditable appearance, but there are still a large number of wooden buildings, and more or less temporary structures, which will, no doubt, give way in course of time to more permanent premises. Electric tramways are found on the leading streets, the electric light prevails everywhere, and the water supply is fairly good. The only weak point about Winnipeg is the state of the roads and side-walks. No doubt they will be improved in time, and, unpleasant though they may be in wet weather, no one can question the wisdom of economy in expenditure on the part of the city authorities. It is much better to effect improvements of that kind gradually than to build up huge municipal depts, which is so commonly the case in the Colonies. The residential part of the city is chiefly in and around what is known as the Hudson Bay Reserve, and no one can walk through that part of the city without being struck with the comfortable

character of the houses and the taste shown in their construction. There are very few terraces, most of them being of the villa type, in their own grounds. As the trees grow up along the wide avenues, the appearance of that part of the city will be delightful.



WINNIPEG IN WINTER.

There can be no doubt as to the future of Winnipeg. It is sure to become a large city. Whether its expansion will be slow or rapid depends upon the way in which the Western country is settled up. For some years, at any rate, its progress is likely to be of the slow and sure description, depending as it must do

upon the welfare of the agricultural community, of which the population of the country tributary to it largely consists. A few days may be spent in Winnipeg very pleasantly by the visitor. There are excellent hotels in the city, chief among them being the Manitoba Hotel, erected by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. The drives and rides about the country are delightful, and it is a convenient centre for excursions north, south, east, and west. Fishing may be obtained in Lakes Winnipeg and Manitoba, where the finest whitefish are caught; and big game shooting—moose and deer, as well as bear—may be obtained within 40 or 50 miles of Winnipeg, in the district between the two lakes already mentioned. And in the proper seasons small game is also very abundant.



To the West!

THE boundary of Manitoba is about 210 miles from Winnipeg; and, except for the first 40 miles, where the district is but sparsely inhabited, owing to the land being largely in the hands of speculators, the agricultural industry of the country is seen at its best from the line of railway *en route*. In the autumn the journey affords a sight that must be seen to be realised, as it is impossible to adequately describe the fields of golden grain that are to be seen stretching away on either side as far as the eye can reach. The country is apparently as level as a billiard table—an expression that has been used before in descriptions of the prairie—but still there is a gradual and imperceptible ascent as we go west. Between Winnipeg and Portage-la-Prairie (56 miles), for instance, there is a rise of about 100 feet, and Brandon (130 miles) is 453 feet higher than Winnipeg; and when we get to the limits of the Province, the plain is about 700 feet higher than it is at the capital.

Portage-la-Prairie (population, 5000) is the first place of importance after leaving Winnipeg. It is the centre of what is known as the Portage Plains, an extensive and famous wheat-field. There are several large elevators in the vicinity of the station, also flour mills and other manufactories, and it is the junction of the Manitoba and North-Western Railway, already laid to Yorkton, in the direction of Prince Albert—which it is destined some day to reach. The completion of the line, the company owning which is just now in rather low water, will open up a beautiful stretch of country in what is known as the Fertile Belt. From Portage-la-Prairie to Brandon, stations occur at every few miles. They are generally surrounded by stores of various kinds, which form the source of supplies for the district, and these apparently prosperous little villages are also the local grain markets, the huge elevators at most of these being landmarks for miles round.

Brandon, next to Winnipeg, is the most important town in Manitoba. It has a large and fertile district tributary to it, its streets and stores present a busy appearance, and it is not only the leading grain market in the Province, but an important railway junction. About a couple of miles from the town is the

Government experimental farm, under the able management of Mr. Bedford. It consists of about 1000 acres, and is cut up into small plots, on which various experiments are annually made in the growth of the many varieties of grain, fruits, trees, &c., likely to be of economic value to the farmers of the Province. There is no doubt that all the cereals which can be produced in temperate climates will grow in Manitoba, but it is very important to get the hardiest and earliest-ripening varieties, with a view to avoid the frosts which sometimes occur at importune seasons. The experiments in fruit-growing are especially interesting, and in the case of the smaller fruits have been most successful, but, so far, it has not been found possible to raise apples and pears. As, however, these fruits are raised in Russia, in latitudes even higher than Manitoba, the question of finding and acclimatising suitable varieties will probably only be a question of time. Special efforts are being made to grow trees, which are not common on the prairies, owing to the prairie fires that, before settlement took place, periodically swept the country. Considerable success is attending the efforts of the director of the farm in this direction, and too much importance cannot be attached to the matter, as trees are both useful for shelter and shade purposes, apart from their ornamental advantages. Thoroughbred live stock and poultry are also kept for breeding purposes, and as object-lessons for the farmers in the surrounding districts. There is constant communication between the director of the farm and the agriculturists of the Province. Samples of seed are distributed annually to farmers who wish to have them, and are prepared to carry out the experiments on the lines laid down, and the privilege is largely availed of. Then, again, parties of farmers usually visit the Government farm, and take that opportunity of exchanging views with the experts who are in charge of it. Altogether, the system of the experimental farms has been a great success, and the efforts of the Dominion Government to improve the condition of the farmers is deserving of every encouragement.

Scottish Poets in Canada.

THE beautiful atmosphere of Manitoba and Canada in general has inspired the muse in many of the settlers of that Dominion, and almost without exception they utilise it in praise of their native land. While their success in their new homes enables most to visit the scenes of their childhood at frequent intervals, but invariably on their return to Canada, they declare they could not now live in Scotland though their heart warms to it, and the desire returns every few years to again visit its hills and dales, mountains and valleys.

“ Land of my sires,
What mortal hand can ere untie the filial band
That knits me to thy rugged strand.”

The most successful of poets in Canada has been Mr. John Imrie, a native of Glasgow, but for many years a master printer in the Dominion, and I take pleasure in giving a few specimens of his poems:—

My Heart is Scotland's Yet.

Oh, weel I lo'e the Scottish tongue,
The language o' my hame;
An' weel I lo'e a sang that's sung
In praise o' Scotland's fame;
They mak' me think o' happy days,
An' scenes o' beauty rare,
There's something in my heart that says,
There's nae lan' half sae fair.

Chorus—

My heart is Scotland's yet,
Though I bide o'er the sea;
I never can forget
The lan', the lan' sae dear tae me.

Oh, Scotland is a bonnie place,
Wi' scenery sublime;
Whaur Nature smiles wi' fairest face
That stan's the test o' time!

Each mountain, river, loch, or glen,
 Are fu' o' storied fame;
 Wha reads the history o' her men
 Can ne'er forget their name!

In every lan' roun' a' the earth
 Are leal hearts true to thee,
 An' prood are they tae own their birth
 Ayont the wide, saut sea;
 Whaur towers the mountains, bold an' gran',
 Like guardians o' the free,
 Oh, here's my heart an' there's my han',
 Dear Scotland, aye tae thee!

Scotch Dainties.

Gi'e a Scotchman a guid cog o' brose,
 Wi' milk just new drawn frae the coo,
 Feth, ye'll no' see him turn up his nose,
 But tak' them, an' then smack his mou'!

Chorus—

Brose, parritch, kail, haggis, an' bannocks
 Are dainties abune a' compare!
 Nae English, French, Yankees, or Cannucks
 Could mak' such a gran' bill o' fare!

Guid parritch for weans is sae healthy,
 It mak's them grow strong, fat an' weel,
 Dyspeptics are aye 'mang the wealthy—
 They eat what wad sicken an eel!

Noo, what is sae guid as Scotch kail,
 Wi' carrot, an' turnips, an' leeks;
 Hielan' men are braw, hearty, an' hale—
 Yet gang a' the year without brecks!

But the haggis is king o' the table,
 A Scotchman's maist toothfu' delight,
 By dining on that he is able
 To march ony twa in a fight!

When spying for game in Glen Sannox,
 Abint a wheen stanes on my knees,
 What's sweeter than crumpin' oat bannocks,
 An eatin' a whang o' guid cheese?

Brose, parritch, kail, haggis, and bannocks
 Wad mak' lean consumptives grow fat,
 Though they'd sleep oot at nicht in hammocks,
 They'd ne'er be a bit waur o' that!

Then gi'e us oor dainty Scotch farin',
We'll honour the auld muckle pat!
For pastry an' pies we're no carin',
Scotch laddies are no' built wi' that!

Mother's Voice.

OH! sound of mother's voice,
'Twas like music to my ear,
Oft it made my heart rejoice,
Oft dispelled my anxious fear;
But 'tis hush'd in silence now,
And of grief I've had my fill,
Her last kiss upon my brow
Seems to leave its impress still.

Chorus—

Oh! the sound of mother's voice,
As it echoes through the years,
How it makes my heart rejoice,
Though it melts my eyes to tears!
While I live I'll ne'er forget
Tones so full of tender love;
Mother, dear, I'll meet thee yet,
In our heavenly home above!

Mother's voice! I hear it still,
Seems to come from heaven above.
Keeping back my froward will,
Full of tenderness and love;
In my dreams I oft recall
Each kind look of love and joy,
Now, I understand it all—
How a mother loves her boy!

Oh! the sound of mother's voice
Are the sweetest notes of earth,
There is nothing half so choice,
Full of love, and hope, and mirth;
Though to Heaven she has gone,
Yet the wealth of love she gave
Hath a power to cheer me on
From the cradle to the grave!

Dear Land Ayont the Sea.

I STAND upon a foreign shore,
And gaze across the sea,
Fond mem'ries bridge the waters o'er,
Sweet home thoughts come to me;

Once more I see the bonnie hills,
 I feel glad some young and free,
 My heart with loyal rapture thrills,
 Dear land ayont the sea.

I see once more the gowans fair,
 And scent the hawthorn bloom,
 I feel the pure sweet mountain air,
 Blow fresh from heather broom;
 I hear glad voices as of yore,
 Sing songs of love to me,
 Oh, shall I ever see thee more,
 Dear land ayont the sea.

May Heaven grant me this request,
 Before the day I dee,
 To see the land I love the best,
 My birth-place ower the sea;
 And oh, I think I would be blest,
 When soars my spirit free,
 To know my body yet would rest
 At hame ayont the sea.

Sons of Scotland.

Sons of Scotland! land of freedom!
 Sons of noble sires, all hail!
 Let your watchword aye be "Freedom"
 You shall evermore prevail!
 Let the wrong be deeply hated,
 Let the right be prized like love,
 Martyr courage unabated,
 Trusting in your God above!

Sons of Scotland! bards historic
 Sang your deeds of noble fame,
 Let not tyranny plethoric
 Tarnish your unsullied name;
 History gives us what we cherish,
 Ours to still maintain the right,
 May that history never perish,
 Though we perish in the fight!

Like the waters from our fountains,
 Giving strength to flesh and bone;
 Like the thistle on our mountains,
 Harmless, if but let alone!
 Ours to shield the needy stranger,
 Ours to put the erring right;
 Ours to stand in time of danger,
 And, if need be, ours to fight!

Dear old Scotia! land of flowers,
 Land of mountain, hill and vale!
 Land of sunshine, shade and showers,
 Land of river, loch, and dale;
 Land of ever-changing beauty,
 Land of liberty and love---
 Scotchmen! tread the path of duty,
 Till you reach the land above!

Ode to the Sons of Scotland.

WE'RE Sons o' Scotlan', ane an' a',
 An' prood o' kith an' kin,
 Yet tho' frae hame we'e far awa',
 We lo'e the lan' we're in;
 When Scotchmen travel far frae hame,
 They like to meet a freen,
 An' crack about their country's fame,
 An' keep it's mem'ry green.

Chorus--

We're a' Sons o' Scotlan' here,
 An' a' leal an' true,
 An' if you be a brither dear,
 We'll a' welcome you.

We meet to sing the "auld Scotch sangs,"
 An' crack aboot lang syne,
 An' they wha richted Scotlan's wrangs,
 An' focht her battles fine,
 Oor bosoms swell wi' loval pride,
 For Wallace, Bruce, and Burns,
 T'he dear auld lan' ayont the tide,
 Leal memory aften turns!

An' when a brither needs a freen,
 We lend a helpin' hand,
 By lonely bedside aft are seen
 Some members o' oor band;
 We cheer an' comfort in distress,
 An' gie the orphans bread,
 The widow's lonely lot we bless,
 An' bury a' oor dead!

Loyal If Red.

THE Queen has no more loyal subjects than the Red Indians,
 who are now peaceful inhabitants of Manitoba and other parts
 of Canada

Their admiration for "the Great White Mother" is spontaneous and genuine, and often finds expression in ways that are characteristically ingenious and well meant.

This is fully borne out by the following incident told to a newspaper representative by one who was present,

Chief Shakes, of the Kitimaats, during one season sold 60,000 salmon caught in his preserves to the manager of a cannery, who paid him 5000 dollars. In the exuberance of his spirits and loyalty, the chief conceived the idea of sending 100 dollars to Queen Victoria as a present.

The sum was handed to Mr. Todd, the Indian agent, who in due course forwarded it to the Queen.

Her Majesty was not slow to appreciate the gift. She caused a letter, showing her appreciation of the chief's loyalty, to be sent, and asked him to accept a very fine steel engraving of herself, set in a beautiful frame, together with two plaids of sheep's wool, calculated to delight the heart of any native chief.

These were forwarded for presentation to the chief through Mr. Todd.

On the day of presentation Chief Shakes called his tribe together, and Mr. Todd read the Queen's letter, which was interpreted to the old chief, and handed him the gifts.

In responding, Chief Shakes said it made his heart glad to know that a humble individual residing so far away from his Good Mother had not been forgotten by her, and that he would continue to love and revere our great Queen. He added that although he could never expect to see her on earth, he would try to lead such a life as would enable him to meet her in heaven. And then overcome with emotion, he burst into tears.

The News of the Hour.

WHEN one brings the various items in a newspaper into relation one with the other, they do not seem to form a very neat pattern or design. The doings of the people of this city and day in the year make the veriest crazy quilt of pleasure and pain, economy and prodigality, vice and virtue, that the mind could imagine. If we could only get up on the roof of the world and look down, we should see such a tangled mass of endeavors, such a pulling and hauling of contrary energies—such struggles God-ward and such hell-bent plunges as would sicken and shame.—*Winnipeg Saturday Night.*

A Great Day for Scotland.

HERE is an incident at the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in London :—A coal-black Hausa was observed taking a drink with a red-coated Canadian and a buff-attired South African. Just behind the two was a Scot arm-in-arm with one of our Chinese fellow-subject men from Hong-Kong. "Join us," said the Canadian. "With great pleasure," cried Sandy; and the five edged their way to a table, where the order was given—"Five Scotch whiskies." The whisky having been drunk, the Highlander nudged the man from the Cape. "It's a great day for Scotland," said he.



Manitoba Farming.

What is Necessary to Make it Successful.

To secure success one must have a good practical knowledge of farming. Unless accustomed to farm life, he will find there is a great deal to learn, that will retard his progress very effectively to begin with, and often cripple him in after years.

AGE.—In regard to that, it does not make much difference, if the person has plenty of perseverance and is able to do a day's work. Many middle-aged persons have come to this province, and are very comfortably settled, whilst comparatively younger ones are a failure.

HEALTH.—If not consumptive, or affected with any other incurable disease, one's health will be apt to improve, as this climate is considered a health promoter, as many can testify, by the improvement in their appetites after living on the prairie for a short time.

CAPITAL REQUIRED.—One thousand dollars is supposed to cover the expense of starting to farm. Some have done well on much less, and are now farming on quite a large scale, having one entire section (six hundred and forty acres) under cultivation. They are the early pioneers, and have had free homesteads, but when one pays for his land he can have a say in the choice of it, also the locality. The lay of land means a good deal to the initiated. Farms lying or facing the north are not so apt to have the grain frozen as those facing the south. Very low land is also to be avoided, as it frequently gets caught with the early frosts.

The spring is considered the best time of the year for settlers, as early as possible. They can then have time to learn or take on shares a farm, which will supply them with some of the necessities of life, and also the seed grain for another year, thus giving them a longer time to find a suitable place for a home for themselves. Land can be purchased from C.P.R. and other companies, if one is short of cash, on the instalment plan, at a moderate rate of interest. The C.P.R. charges six per cent. and are not a hard company to deal with (on that line), if one tries to do what is right. Land can still be bought convenient to the towns at from five to ten dollars per acre, according to quality and location.

OUTFIT NECESSARY.—Settlers can bring whatever they please. As a rule, horses, cattle, and all the other domestic animals can readily be purchased here, and they have the advantage of being acclimatized—at least the horse, which has been known to suffer in health very materially, and many of them succumb to prevalent diseases the first year after landing in Manitoba. Heavy draught are the kind to bring. Fowls do well, but can be bought at the same price as in the eastern provinces. All farm implements should be got here. Those who come should bring plenty of strong, warm clothing, fur overcoats being almost indispensable articles of attire during five months of the year. Household furniture is moderately cheap, also kitchen ware.

HOW THE SETTLER SHOULD CARRY ON HIS WORK FOR THE FIRST TWO YEARS.—If he purchases a wild land farm, one man with a team of horses, or good oxen, can break and backset fifty acres of prairie the first summer, and if inclined to work can make a few dollars of pocket-money by hiring himself and team, if horses, to the owner of a threshing machine in the autumn at a fair wage, or else to a farmer for stubble ploughing. If he wishes to rest the animals, he can get employment in the harvest fields at the time of the reaping and stacking.

During the winter months work is scarcer. Many young men go to the farmers for very little, to do light chores about the yard or stable, if there is teaming wheat to market or wood from the mountains. From seven to fifteen dollars per month is usually paid. Any person industriously disposed can go to the Turtle Mountains and take out wood for himself, which the farmers and townspeople are glad to purchase; or they can get out sufficient logs to build a snug house, granary, and stable. Sometimes they are built with sods, and those who have used them claim they are very comfortable for man or beast.

Married men with grown-up sons and daughters usually do the best, as they can do without hiring help. Many of the farmers' wives are overworked during the harvest and threshing time, as it is almost impossible to get help, female servants are so scarce, and they prefer living in the town to roughing it on the farm. Wages at that time range from ten to fifteen dollars per month, and in one or two instances that have come to the writer's knowledge as high as twenty dollars have been paid.

Settlers would do well not to purchase in the summer or autumn, nor on their first arrival in Manitoba, no matter how fair it looks. Oftimes there is deception in soil, as well as in the human family. Men with the bump of caution, very much

enlarged by severe practical experience, will tell you to either rent, or, if young and unmarried, work with the farmers until such time as you get a thorough knowledge of place, surroundings, &c. Good bargains are sometimes made for cultivated farms which have fallen into the hands of speculators by mortgage, or otherwise, who only want their own out of it. If it is a wild or prairie land farm that is bought, after seeding is over, one can start to break up the sod, until such time as haying commences, on or about the 25th of July. Almost all the hay that grows is wild, and is found in and around the sloughs. If not on your own, but on the Company's land (the C.P.R. and North-West Land Companies excepted) you will have to get what they call a hay permit for the season of so many days, giving exclusive right. You will pay for this the sum of two dollars. You are then privileged to take off fifteen tons of hay; if you require more you will have to pay ten cents per ton. Slough hay is usually plentiful. It is worth in the market about five dollars per ton. A few of our farmers are growing quite successfully timothy hay of a good quality. The writer used nothing for his stock but the wild hay, and finds if they can get what they can eat of it, they will not need much else, and come out in fine condition in the spring.

In my mind's eye, as I write, comes the picture of a farmhouse and out-buildings where I used to call. The house was situated on the top of a rising ground or hill, and the out-buildings conveniently near, nestled at the foot, or slope. The house, of frame, although not large, was sufficiently so for the comfort and convenience of the family of seven. It consisted of four rooms on the lower flat and three large bedrooms on the upper; was comfortably furnished, and nicely painted on the inside and out; had large clean yards, with out-buildings also painted, and good pumps near dwelling-house and stable.

This settler has been in Manitoba fifteen years, and now owns three-quarters of a section of land. He has done nearly all his own work, and raised, with the help of a good wife, a young family of children, the oldest being now about seventeen years, and he did not have a thousand dollars with which to start farming. Of course he was a homesteader, who laboured under more serious disadvantages than anyone will have to contend with now, for the want of a near market.

Kind reader, let me whisper. Do not go to the Klondike for gold; you will find it much easier in the great wheat fields of the Prairie Province.

Advantages of Manitoba.

WHEN it is remembered that land which may be homesteaded or bought for from 2 to 8 dollars per acre produced this year an average over the whole province, taking in good and bad, of over 14 bushels per acre, it will be seen that farming can be advantageously followed in Manitoba. In 1895 the average wheat yield for the whole province was over 27 bushels per acre. Then, too, the farmer has his dairy returns at good prices, and cold storage facilities for shipping either east or west, and has moreover an abundance of coarse grains and roots for feeding stock which sell when fattened at 45 or 50 dollars per head. As showing how this works out, an example may be given from the C.P.R. lands which are sold on a ten year plan. A farm of 160 acres at 3 dollars per acre may be paid for with interest, by an annual payment of 61.50 dollars for ten years. It will be evident that with wheat yields running from 20 (for the average yield over the province for the last eight years has been nearly 20 bushels per acre) to 30 and even 40 bushels per acre, with live stock, poultry, dairy, and other side products, the active and intelligent farmer can soon build up a home for himself, and thousands of successful farmers to-day testify that they have done so.



Land Sales.

NOBODY buys land in a country which he thinks has not an assured future, therefore the sales of land are an index of the state of business and of the satisfaction of present settlers with their lot. In many cases land is purchased by a man who homesteaded his original farm, and who wishes more land for himself or for his children. That he wants more land, and that he is able to pay for it, are proofs that he has done well on his original farm. In other cases farms are bought by new-comers, who by this means locate in the choicest spots of a part of the country that they fancy. Like bank clearings, land sales are a good index of the state of trade in the country. All records of sales of unimproved land cannot be secured, as lands held by private individuals are sold through so many agencies that it is impossible to collect the figures. The general feeling so far as can be judged is one of satisfaction, and in line with figures given below. While thus private sales are not obtainable, the following valuable figures showing marked progress are presented through the kindness of Mr. L. A. Hamilton, land commissioner of the C.P.R. The figures for 1897 while only for ten months show a substantial increase over the whole year's sales of 1896. The figures are:—

C.P.R. LAND SALES.

Year.	Acres.	Value.
1895,	61,077	199,280 dols.
1896,	87,878	308,928 „
1897 (ten months),	139,770	468,800 „

In addition to the above, the sales of the Canada North-West Land Co., now also under Mr. Hamilton's management, are given:—

Year.	Acres.	Value.
1895,	4,194	23,117 dols.
1896,	20,127	114,019 „
1897 (ten months),	27,771	151,816 „

Field Game.

SETTLERS in Manitoba find relaxation from their labors in the pursuit of field game, which abounds in all parts, though, of course, some parts of the province possess better hunting grounds than others. The most general game bird is the prairie chicken, which is found in all parts, and is one of the best kinds of feathered game to be found anywhere. It is considerably larger than a partridge, and forms an acceptable addition to the larder of the settler. Various kinds of wild ducks are also plentiful, and provide good sport, especially in the fall, when they are passing from their summer feeding grounds in the north to the south. Plover, partridge, and other kinds of game birds are found in different parts. Of larger game there are moose, and different varieties of deer. Other four-footed animals are rabbits and jack rabbits. In the unsettled portions bears are occasionally found, and some prairie wolves remain, though these latter are being exterminated very rapidly in order to prevent their depredations among the smaller animals of the barnyard. The paying of a bounty of two dollars per head is rapidly exterminating them. In the meantime in parts of the province where they still remain, they are frequently hunted with hounds on horseback, and furnish good sport. On the other hand, it is the policy of the Government to protect by suitable close seasons the good game of the country, so that the settler in his hours of leisure may have a healthful and profitable pastime.



Province of Manitoba.

Area.

THE province, in area, is about 200 miles from east to west, and extends northerly from the 49th parallel, embracing 73,956 square miles, or some 47,331,840 acres. In other words, it is nearly as large as England and Scotland combined. Deducting, say, 10,000,000 acres for water areas, town sites, and broken lands, there is left 37,000,000 for active farm cultivation, or homes for 116,000 families, on 320 acres, which is considered a large property for a well-to-do farmer. The great majority of the settlers do well on half that area, 160 acres, while a few of the wealthier hold more. A snug living and money to the good can be made on the smaller farm, where the family is not unusually large. As there are so far but 27,000 actual farmers in the province, it will be seen there is ample room for many thousands more.

Method of Subdivision.

The land is laid out in blocks of six miles square, called townships. These latter are again subdivided into 36 square parts, called sections, one mile square, the mile being again subdivided into quarters, containing 160 acres. The townships in turn are all numbered from a principal meridian two miles west of Winnipeg. The tiers of townships are numbered northerly from the southern boundary of the province in ranges. From this class of survey, the settler has no difficulty at any time in naming any location. It is simple and complete. There is a road allowance around every section, or square mile, so any property is readily accessible by team, each quarter section or farm of 160 acres having a road allowance on two sides.

Growth of Population.

Comparatively nothing was known of the agricultural capabilities of the country before 1870, when it was detached from Rupert's Land ("The Great Lone Land") under Hudson's Bay Company rule, and created a province by an Act of the Imperial Parliament. Previous to that time (1870), Manitoba was known

only as a fur-bearing country, inhabited by Indians and half-breeds. At that time the population numbered about 10,000 souls, not more than 1000 of whom were whites, and they, for the most part, employees of the Hudson's Bay Company. In 1881 the population had increased to 65,000, and at present it is about 275,000. When its wonderful capabilities are known to the thousands of people in the crowded portions of the old countries, and the non-productive sections of the United States, the increase will be more rapid than ever.

Water and Fuel.

These are very important considerations for the settler. The country is everywhere at easy distances intersected by creeks and rivers, and many lakes of varying dimensions exist, especially in the northern portion of the province. Some of these are well stocked with fish and wild fowl, affording amusement, and supplying valuable articles of diet. Water in abundance, and of excellent quality, can also be got at depths varying from 10 to 40 feet in nearly all portions of the province. All of the streams and lakes are skirted by blocks of timber, which afford fuel for the settlers.

The Climate.

One of the first questions a sensible man will ask is:—What is its climate? If the climate of any country is unhealthy, that country is undesirable, no matter what may be its advantages. The world's mortuary statistics show Manitoba to be one of the healthiest countries on the globe.

Malarial diseases are totally unknown in this country, and contagious complaints are rarely heard of.

Manitoba is situated near the centre of the Canadian North-west, but in the eastern portion of the wheat-growing belt. Its winters are cold, but, having a clear sky, and a consequent absence of the humidity common in other countries, the extreme is not felt with the same severity as in many other northern climes. The snowfall is light, and on the prairie rarely, if ever, exceeds two feet in depth. There are no sudden changes, so that day in and day out the settlers dress for cold weather, and enjoy the season through. The winter months are from the 1st of December to the 1st of April, and the summer season

from the 1st of June to the 1st of September. Spring and fall are delightful and invigorating.

There are also beds of coal in several portions of the province. This guarantees an ample supply of fuel for all time at a moderate price. By a wise provision of nature, the timber bluffs, streams, lakes, and ground elevations preserve a humidity of atmosphere in the summer season, and there are no hot, parching winds, such as are experienced on the low, level, unbroken prairies in that portion of the United States known as the American desert. Hurricanes and cyclones are of very rare occurrence in Manitoba.

Topography.

The prairie land of Manitoba is in striking contrast with that of some parts of western America. It is not one monotonous level expanse, with nothing to relieve the eye, but is everywhere more or less undulating, dotted here and there with hills and valleys. Very few of the former are rocky or barren; they are simply eminences affording good pasturage for all domestic animals.

Soil.

There are a variety of soils, as in all other countries, but what may be called the characteristic soil of Manitoba is a deep, black argillaceous mould of loam resting on a deep clay subsoil, which ranks among the very richest in the world. This, the most capable chemists say, is especially adapted to the growth of wheat, and practical every-day life fully verifies the statement. It is also very rich, and stands more cropping without manure than any other soil known to agriculturists. Usually the snow disappears early in April, and seeding begins a week or two later, the soil drying very rapidly on the surface. The harvest begins about the middle of August.

Commercial Facilities.

Though it is but twenty-seven years since Manitoba was established, some 1400 miles of railway now traverse all the settled parts of the province, and render accessible the portions still open to free grant settlement. Very few farmers are more than a dozen miles from a market or railway, while thousands, of course, are within two or three miles.

Railway stations occur at intervals of about seven or eight miles, and at these are post-offices and villages of more or less importance, with elevators for the storage of grain, facilities for the shipment of all farm products, and stores where anything required in ordinary life may be obtained.

Social Conditions.

Very naturally, an intending settler with a family will inquire, "What are the social conditions of the country? If I locate in Manitoba shall I enjoy any of the blessings of educated life, or shall I be for ever shut out from all congenial society?" This province is so far settled with many of the best families of the countries whence they emigrated. It is nothing surprising to find college graduates working their own farms, and the most experienced agriculturists, mechanics, merchants, and men of all callings in the country towns and villages.

Government.

The representative and governmental institutions are, with modifications, modelled after those of Great Britain. A Lieutenant-Governor represents the Queen, and the representatives in the Legislature are chosen by the people. In addition, and for the management of purely local matters, there is a well-considered municipal system.

Ample provision is made in Manitoba for the care and protection of the blind and the insane. There is a home for incurables, a school for the deaf and dumb, hospitals for the sick, &c. The existence of these institutions is, however, no evidence that the country has more than its share of the afflicted, as they were constructed for the care of those of the Territories to the west, as well as for those in the province of Manitoba.

There are a number of friendly societies in the province, with branches in the smaller places, and in many of the country schoolhouses which dot the prairie, Masonic and other lodges often meet, and gatherings of an intellectual character are frequently held. There is nothing lacking in town and country that could be expected in any new country to make life enjoyable.

Educational Facilities.

An important consideration for a settler in any country is the educational facilities available; and the school system of Manitoba, as now arranged, is claimed by educationists to be equal to any on the continent. The rural schools are about every three miles or so apart in the settled districts, and the system is free. The Government makes an annual grant of a considerable sum to each school, and all the expenses, teachers' salary included, are paid by this grant, and a general taxation of the land within the district, whether occupied or unoccupied. This assures the poor all the advantages of primary education that are enjoyed by the rich. The teachers are all skilled educationists, duly certificated. In these schools all the ordinary branches of education are taught. In many of the village schools, where two or more teachers are employed, a still higher education is given, and in the city and town schools, collegiate institutes are maintained where students are fitted for the colleges in Winnipeg and in other cities in Canada. One-eighteenth part of the whole of the "Fertile Belt," from Pembina to the Saskatchewan, and beyond it, is set apart for the maintenance of schools. A few figures on this point will not be uninteresting.

In 1871 the school population was 817, and now it is 50,093. In 1883 the average attendance was 5064, and now it is 23,247. In 1883, there were 246 teachers in the province, and the number is now 1143, about the one-half males, and there appears to be no scarcity, as 1017 new certificates were granted during 1897. These figures show, on the average, one teacher for every 240 people, and for every 33 children. The entire value of the school properties of the province is now 750,351 dollars, or nearly 3 dollars per head of the entire population, a condition of things to be envied by many an older country. The average salary paid to teachers in rural districts is 368 dollars a year, and the highest in cities is 1800 dollars. In addition to the teachers being all certificated, the schools are inspected at intervals by competent teachers to see that the most approved methods are in operation.

The schools are unsectarian and national in character, religion being taught when desired, during hours set apart for the purpose. All religious denominations, whether Christian or otherwise, enjoy equal rights, and Christian churches of various beliefs are found in the country towns as well as in the cities of the province.

In connection with education may be mentioned the Government Experimental Farm, at Brandon, where all the different kinds of grain, seeds, roots, vegetables, grasses, small fruits, trees and shrubs, that it is sought to grow in the province are sown on all the varied soils which are found on the farm. Record of the results are preserved, for the information of the entire agricultural population of the country, and are occasionally published in the newspapers, of which most of the small towns have one, and the cities several. Similar experimental farms are to be found in the North-West Territories and British Columbia.

In addition, the Government sends around to the towns and villages travelling schools of dairy instructors. In these schools lectures are given, illustrated by practical operations, by competent men, in all the arts of cattle raising, butter and cheese-making, &c., thus all may learn the best methods known to the country without loss of time or money.

Besides these, again, there is a system of Farmers' Institutes, now about 23 in number, at which meetings are held at regular intervals in the important parts of the country. On these occasions men make known their experiences, and exchange opinions on matters of importance to the agricultural community.

Up to 1883 there were no railway facilities in the western two-thirds of the province, except those furnished by the main line of the Canadian Pacific Railway. At that time it was nothing unusual to see farmers hauling their wheat by teams from 100 to 150 miles to the nearest market—a trip covering a whole week—the expenses by the way consuming half the proceeds, and a grocery bill at the market taking a great part of the rest. The construction of branch lines, the opening of municipal roads, &c., now reduces the prices of everything bought, and does away with many expenses formerly unavoidable.

Manufacturing.

Agriculture and its kindred industries—dairying and stock-raising—are the principal occupations of the residents of Manitoba, but considerable manufacturing is also done. In all the principal towns and villages of the province there are large flour mills, the total output being about 8500 barrels daily, and elevators, for the handling of grain, of a total capacity of over 10,000,000 bushels. Oat meal mills are also established at Winnipeg, Brandon, Portage la Prairie, and Pilot Mound. Blacksmith shops, carpenter shops, woodworking shops, machine

shops for repairing agricultural implements, are also found more or less in every town and important village. The railway companies have large workshops at Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Brandon, that give employment to many men. The demand for mills, &c., of course, becomes greater as the country is brought more and more under cultivation, and the increasing population, and additional facilities for business and travel all combine to afford opportunities for the establishment of new branches of commerce by those who have a little money and the necessary knowledge.

Agricultural Features.

No. 1 hard wheat realises the highest price of any variety in the country, and is unexcelled by any in the world. The soil is admirably adapted for other grains, and for all roots and grasses. Many farmers, and their number is increasing, give more attention to dairying than to grain growing, owing to the increasing demand for Canadian cheese and butter, both in Europe and in the mining districts of British Columbia. "Mixed farming" is now considered to be the most paying of agricultural pursuits. The following figures will show how Manitoba has progressed, and it must be remembered that only a few years ago, butter, oats, flour, and nearly all the produce of the farm were imported from Eastern Canada or the States.

Dairying.

Dairying on the factory system is being conducted with good results throughout Manitoba, and the industry is making very rapid strides. At the present time there are 28 creameries and 35 cheese factories in operation, and no difficulty is found in securing a remunerative market for the output of butter and cheese. With the development of mining operations in the Lake of the Woods district, a further important market for such products is available, which cannot fail to stimulate the industry. There were 2,397,464 lbs. of butter produced in the province in 1897. The output of cheese amounted to 987,007 lbs.

Cost of an Acre of Wheat.

Mr. Bedford, the superintendent of the Government Experimental Farm of Brandon, estimates the cost of growing an acre

of wheat at 7·87 dols. (£1, 12s. 4d). This was the result of an actual experiment on a yield of 29 bushels. The items of cost were—Ploughing once, 1·25 dols. (about 5s.); harrowing twice, 20 cents (10d.); cultivating twice, 40 cents (1s. 8d.); seed, 11 bushels, 75 cents (about 3s.); drilling, 22 cents (11d.); binding, 33 cents (about 1s. 4d.); cord, 20 cents (10d.); stooking, 16 cents (8d.); stacking, 60 cents (about 2s. 6d.); threshing, 1·46 dols. (6s.); teaming to market, 4 miles, 29 cents (about 1s. 2½d.); two years' rent or interest on land valued at 15 dols. per acre at 6 per cent, 1·80 dols. (about 7s. 5d.); wear and tear of implements, 20 cents (10d.)—a total of 7·87 dols. (£1, 12s. 4d).

Fruit.

In all parts of the province, strawberries, raspberries, currants, and other berries grow in profusion. Plums and apples of certain varieties can be grown, but at present they are more profitably supplied from Ontario and British Columbia.

Fisheries.

The fishing industry on many of the lakes is proving very profitable. Besides supplying the needs of the province, a considerable export trade is done. Lakes Winnipeg, Manitoba, Winnipegosis, and Dauphin are the principal lakes of the province.



Helpful Notes.

MANITOBA is everywhere free of stumps and stones, and little draining is required, owing to the porous nature of the soil and the configuration of the country.

There are Boards of Trade in the chief cities and towns of the country that make a study of its commercial and agricultural requirements, and indirectly they do good service to the agricultural classes.

There are forty-seven agricultural societies in the province receiving about 325 dollars each annually from the Government, to aid them in making up prize lists for their yearly fall shows. There is, besides, an annual provincial exhibition.

At the twenty-three Farmers' Institutes, scattered over the country, meetings are held at regular intervals, when all the improved methods of farming, cattle raising, and dairying are discussed. These discussions are of considerable value to new arrivals in the western country.

The Government takes precaution against the spread of diseases in horses and cattle and of noxious weeds on the farms.

The Government encourages, by the grant of a sum of money, the maintenance of a poultry association; this has led to the improvement in poultry, that places the province in the front rank in this respect.

One of the best evidences of the success of agriculturists in Manitoba is that resident farmers invest every dollar they can spare from time to time in buying more land for themselves and their families.

During certain months, during harvesting and threshing, a good man can usually get from 30 to 35 dollars a month, and his board, but a yearly engagement with a farmer is a matter of chance and negotiation. A man and his wife, if the latter understands the necessities of a farm, are sometimes asked for.

Out of the 100,000 head of cattle shipped from Montreal to Great Britain in 1896, Manitoba and the North-West furnished 28,000, or more than the one-quarter.

Manitoba now exports large quantities of butter and flour to China, and last year it sent 6500 tons of flour to Australia.

There are sixty-three newspapers published in Manitoba, one for every 4000 people, showing that many read three or four newspapers.

Our Western Empire.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER.

A Chat with Canada's Premier.

"ENTREZ, Monsieur," said the attendant, and I was forthwith ushered into a large, well-lighted room, with a great desk in its centre. The window looked out upon the central Parliament building and the river, but I had no time to study the view, for I had scarce been seated when I heard a step, a side-door opened, and in walked—Mr. Willard, the actor.

At least, under other circumstances, the illusion would have been complete. There was the height and slim figure, the high brow, the sallow complexion, the long, grey hair, and above all, the long, firm upper lip, and the colour and expression of the eye. Age our clever actor by ten years, and you have Sir Wilfrid Laurier, the brilliant French-Canadian, who has become Prime Minister of the Dominion of Canada,

"I am very glad indeed to see you," he observed heartily, as he shook hands and bade me sit down. Sir Wilfrid's pronunciation carries with it only the very slightest trace of Gaelic accent, chiefly noticeable when he emphasises the final syllable of certain words, such as "Parliament" and "Empire," instead of the first. His attire, I must say, suggests the Englishman—even the English actor—in its predominant bright colours, especially in cravat and waistcoat, the high, encircling collar, and the diamond horse-shoe pin. It is plain that the Canadian Premier is not one of those great political spirits who affect either a studied disorder or a contempt for dress.

The beginnings of our conversation were, curiously enough, directed to English literature. Sir Wilfrid is a staunch admirer and an omnivorous reader, during his scant leisure, of the present-day novelists.

"English literature is the greatest tie of all between England and America. Any tie must be sentiment, and literature is sentiment. It seems to me that every English author writes first for these transatlantic peoples, and secondly for the people of England—and his best work first appears in America."

Sir Wilfrid then went on to express his belief that there would never be a war between Great Britain and the United States, and the thing that would for ever kill the present friction, caused by international jealousy, would be a war between Britain and another Power.

"Suppose Britain were in actual danger, then you would see where the sympathy of the Americans would be. They can afford to rail at the Old Country themselves; but let all Europe threaten, and you would see how quickly they would take her part."

"There is a great deal of curiosity, not in England alone, Sir Wilfrid," I said, "with reference to where your own sympathies lie."

My interlocutor looked at me curiously, then he leant forward and replied in a very earnest, animated manner:—

"I see you have been reading some of the Opposition newspapers, in which I am charged with being an anti-Imperialist, a Commercial Unionist, an Annexationist even. They have not taken the trouble heretofore to ask me point blank what I am, and what my policy in that respect is. I am, therefore, the more gratified to be able to tell you. I am a Britisher; and my policy is British. It is true I am seeking to cultivate better trade relations with the United States, because I believe that at present, for a vast volume of our perishable products, it is the nearest and most natural market. But as time goes on—with improved conditions—we may afford, having built up the Imperial trade, to become independent of our neighbours. It is laid down as a general proposition that 'trade follows the flag.' I believe in this dictum—but I should suggest an amendment. It should be, trade follows the British flag. The trade lines of the Empire will ultimately be political lines."



Pen Portrait of the Premier.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier.

FIRST in any notice of the visitors to the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in point of personal interest, as in order of Colonial precedence, was the French gentleman, who, the Monro doctrine notwithstanding, governs half North America under the Union Jack. There is something besides his descent which differentiates Sir Wilfrid Laurier from other Colonial Premiers. He is not a poet. Only the other day, apropos of the amusing discussion on Mr. Kipling's "Lady of the Snows," he rather abruptly discountenanced the introduction of poetry into politics. "They wanted less poetry and more business," was his summing up of the requirements of the Canadian Parliament. Yet, says one of his critics in this country, there is that in his nature which seems to show it of finer material than the prosaic stuff of which the average Parliamentarian is made. His eloquence, courage, absence of trickiness and self-seeking, the youthful look which enables his face to belie his baptismal register, the stirring battles he is fighting with episcopal tyranny in Quebec, and commercial unfriendliness at Washington, his unstinted loyalty to Britain—all these things combine to make Sir Wilfrid an attractive and striking personality to British eyes. Sir Wilfrid enjoys a power and popularity in Canada which, fresh though both be, have never been paralleled in the history of the Dominion, not even by the power and popularity of the late Sir John Macdonald. Since his accession to the Premiership, this French-Canadian, who, despite his long descent from an old and honourable French family, is yet proud to call himself a Briton, has succeeded in removing many of the political, racial, and religious obstacles which have so long threatened the prosperity and concord of the Canadian peoples. In his masterly settlement of the Manitoba schools question, largely against his own race and religion, he has convinced the French-Canadian Catholics that he was right (a conviction shown by their recent enormous Liberal majorities in Quebec), and he has won the support of his Holiness the Pope himself. In his numerous important national measures, such as the fast line steamship service, the Pacific and Jamaica cable projects, and the Crow's-Nest Pass Railway, he has demonstrated that in him the Dominion

possesses a Prime Minister who is not only foremost in eloquence and ideas, but noteworthy in action.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier was born at St. Lin, in the province of Quebec, on November 20th, 1841. He was called to the Bar of Lower Canada, but the trend of his mind was towards public life. He is a fine orator. But it is not only his voice and speech that charm. Everything about him attracts—his shapely head set off with waving hair, worn rather long; a clean-shaven face, giving a youthful appearance to singularly handsome features. His real attraction is to be found in his eyes. They are large, deep, and luminous. Into them one really seems to see deeper and further as the speaker loses himself in passionate eloquence. He is tall, rather slender, and his figure is most graceful and dignified.



Canada's Future.

Stirring Speech by Sir W. Laurier.

SIR WILFRID LAURIER, the Premier, was entertained at a banquet at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, by the Board of Trade. Over five hundred of the leading members were present, and there was an impressive scene when all around joined in the singing of "Rule, Britannia," and afterwards in the patriotic song of French-Canadians, "Mon Pays, Mes Amours."

The Premier, in the course of the proceedings, discussed the denunciation of the German and Belgian Commercial Treaties, and said that John Bull had proved that though he was a hard business man, he had an affectionate heart. He announced that the Government intended to seek to establish better relations with the United States, adding, "The day is at hand when immigrants from the United States will flock to our prairies, and we will teach them to sing, 'God Save the Queen.'" On the subject of transportation to Europe, he declared that the Government would not rest satisfied till ninety per cent. of the products sent from America went by way of the St. Lawrence, the natural outlet for the trade of the American Continent.

Sir Wilfrid went on to say that the bond of Imperial Unity had been strengthened by the latest concession to the liberty of the Colony. A new star of liberty had arisen in the West. Whatever the United States could claim Canada could claim also; and he believed that Canadian institutions were more genuinely democratic than those of their neighbours.

The speech was received with intense enthusiasm throughout, and on the peroration descriptive of the position which Canada had attained in the world, the cheers were simply deafening.

Replying to an address presented to him by the British Empire League, Sir Wilfrid Laurier said that the time must come when the question of closer union with Great Britain or complete separation would face the Canadian people, and all of them fondly believed that when that time came, the alternative chosen would be closer union. He was firmly convinced that some form of closer union was quite compatible with the maintenance of the present legislative position and with fiscal independence.

Report on Crops, Live Stock, &c., IN MANITOBA.

Winnipeg, December 11, 1897.

THE following tables give a summary of the yields of the various crops of the province for 1897:—

WHEAT.

District.	Area in Crop.	Average Yield.	Total Yield.
North Western, ..	90,000 ac's.	16.5 bus.	1,485,000 bush'ls.
South Western, ..	554,626 "	13.6 "	7,542,913 "
North Central, ..	240,181 "	14.7 "	3,530,660 "
South Central, ..	320,000 "	13.6 "	4,352,000 "
Eastern,	86,075 "	15.7 "	1,351,377 "
Province,	1,290,882 "	14.14 "	18,261,950 "

OATS.

District.	Area in Crop.	Average Yield.	Total Yield.
North Western, ..	68,940 ac's.	29 bus.	1,999,260 bush'ls.
South Western, ..	169,925 "	19 "	3,228,575 "
North Central, ..	73,656 "	23 "	1,694,068 "
South Central, ..	105,100 "	23.5 "	2,469,850 "
Eastern,	50,520 "	24.5 "	1,237,740 "
Province,	468,141 "	22.7 "	10,629,513 "

BARLEY.

District.	Area in Crop.	Average Yield.	Total Yield.
North Western, ..	13,770 ac's.	23 bus.	316,710 bushels.
South Western, ..	32,856 "	17 "	558,552 "
North Central, ..	37,740 "	21 "	792,540 "
South Central, ..	44,000 "	22 "	968,000 "
Eastern,	24,900 "	22 "	547,800 "
Province,	153,266 "	20.77 "	3,183,602 "

FLAX, RYE AND PEAS.

Total yield of Flax,	247,836 bushels.
" " Rye,	48,344 "
" " Peas,	33,380 "
Total Grain Crop,	324,046 25 "

POTATOES.

District.	Area in Crop.	Yield per Acre.	Total Yield.
North Western, ..	1,800 acres.	111 bus.	199,800 bushels.
South Western, ..	3,600 "	116 "	417,600 "
North Central, ..	2,446 "	183 "	447,618 "
South Central, ..	2,400 "	187 "	448,800 "
Eastern,	3,330 "	156 "	519,480 "
Province,	13,576 "	149 "	2,033,298 "

ROOTS.

District.	Area in Crop.	Yield per Acre.	Total Yield.
North Western, ..	900 acres.	201 bus.	180,900 bushels.
South Western, ..	1,780 "	190 "	338,200 "
North Central, ..	784 "	265 "	207,760 "
South Central, ..	1,220 "	185 "	225,700 "
Eastern,	1,446 "	185 "	267,510 "
Province,	6,130 "	199 "	1,220,070 "

WHEAT.

The estimated yield in the August Bulletin has not been realised. The blight referred to by correspondents as "dead heads," was general throughout the province. Fields that gave the greatest promise were the most disappointing when threshed. The range of yield, as reported by correspondents, varies from six to twenty-two bushels per acre. The season for harvesting and threshing was exceedingly favourable, and never in the history of the province was the wheat crop placed at such an early date upon the markets. The quality was in general No. 1 or 2 hard free from smut, and the price realised was in excess of that received for some years past. Although the yield on the whole was only 14.14 bushels per acre, the crop was handled expeditiously and economically, and the price realised has been so satisfactory to farmers that the province has forged ahead, entering upon a new era of prosperity.

OATS.

The oat crop this season cannot be considered much better than half a crop. What was sown early was affected by frosts and dry weather, and did not make much growth till late in June. Weeds in the meantime gained the ascendancy, and crop as reported was thin and dirty.

Late sown fields are in most cases reported better than early sown.

The crop as a whole is far below the average.

BARLEY.

The barley crop is not commented upon to any extent by crop correspondents, but it is implied that barley suffered in the same way as oats. The result is that there is a shortage of coarse grain for feed, and prices are therefore very much enhanced.

FLAX

The flax crop, confined principally to the South Central District, this year is reported fair.

LIVE STOCK.

CATTLE.—The number of beef cattle exported from the province this season was 15,000. There were also 16,500 stockers shipped to the United States, as shown by the Customs' returns. Total export from the province, 37,500.

HOGS.—The number of hogs shipped out of Manitoba on foot or dressed was 12,500. The number received by Winnipeg packers and butchers was 25,000. Total, 31,500.

With the extensions now going on, the capacity of the Winnipeg packing houses will be increased 100 per cent. by April, 1898, and not only will the ever-increasing demands of the North-West territories, the mining districts of British Columbia and the Klondyke be supplied, but in future every hog raised in the province will find a ready market in Winnipeg.

POULTRY DISPOSED OF BY FARMERS.

Turkeys,	47,540.
Geese and ducks,	20,000.
Chickens,	184,055.

These find a ready market in the province, not supplying the demand.

STOCK IN PROVINCE.

From the last revised assessment statistics sent in by municipal clerks, the following statement is compiled:—

Number of Horses in Province,	100,274
.. Cattle,	221,775
.. Sheep,	36,680
.. Pigs,	74,944

DAIRY PRODUCTS.

The season has been favorable for all parties interested in the manufacture of butter and cheese. The products of creameries and cheese factories under the supervision of the Dairy Superintendent have been uniformly good, and packed so as to meet the requirements of the market. Home dairies have also kept well in line in the manufacture of good butter. There has been a ready sale of all dairy products at remunerative prices.

The following is a summary of production and prices:—

Butter.	Pounds.	Price.	Value.
Creamery,	987,179	18 c.	177,692.22 dols.
Dairy,	1,410,285	13 $\frac{1}{2}$	188,625.62 „
Total,	2,397,464		366,317.84 „

Cheese.	Pounds.	Price.	Value.
Factory,	987,007	8 $\frac{1}{2}$	83,895.59 dols.

Total value of Dairy Products, 450,213.43 dols.

HARVEST LABORERS.

In the August Bulletin it was estimated that 4000 laborers would be required to assist in the harvest fields. Over 5000 harvest hands came from the East in August. Although the labor market at a few points in the province became somewhat congested for a few days, yet all secured employment, and before harvest and threshing were completed, it was impossible to supply the demand for more men.

FALL PLOWING.

Reports indicate that much attention was given to fall plowing, although the land was hard to work, being too dry. Frost did not interfere until farmers had completed what they intended to plow.

The total area of fall plowing is 888,935 acres. From the August Bulletin the area of breaking is reported as 88,790 acres, and the summer-fallowing as 392,960 acres, making a grand total of 1,370,685 acres prepared for the crop of 1898, an increase of more than 400,000 acres over that ready a year ago for the 1897 crop.

NEW BUILDINGS.

The estimated expenditure for farm buildings, dwelling-houses, &c.—outside of towns—is as follows:—

North Western District,	117,000 dols.
South Western ,,	300,560 ,,
North Central ,,	148,950 ,,
South Central ,,	232,800 ,,
Eastern ,,	136,000 ,,
Province,	935,310 dols,



The following table shows the amount of rainfall for the season 1897:—

District.	April.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.
Aweme,	·08	·52	2·04	2·13	2·26	·29	1·11
Belmont,	·26	·95	2·66	3·91	2·61	·96	·57
Beaver Creek,		1·00	1·71		1·67	·21	1·89
Brandon,	·00	·00	·66	1·56	2·29		
Cartwright North,	·34	·77	1·63	3·26	1·96	·53	1·07
Cartwright South,	·10	·53	1·44	2·11	·79	·20	
Elkorn,	·02	·00	1·05	·87	·83		
Delorane,		·77	1·88	3·48	1·51	·42	1·15
Foxton,		1·03		2·41			
Greenwood,	·69	2·61	4·95	5·35	2·28	·85	1·34
Gretna,	·55	1·24	1·56	6·10	1·88		1·40
Hillview,	1·21	·64	2·32	2·12	3·14	·12	·94
Hartney,	1·09	·87	3·78	1·60	2·01	·38	1·42
Lunderville,	·54	·87	2·26	4·75	3·47	·55	·80
Manitou,		·40	2·37	6·06	1·40	·15	1·53
Morden,	·37	1·24	2·25	7·30	2·16	·04	1·76
Norquay,	·22	1·10	1·68	4·43		·45	1·28
Pilot Mound,	·00	·90	2·22	4·59	1·58	·32	·45
Portage la Prairie,	·62	·80	1·22	4·41	1·91	·43	
Rapid City,	·84		·74	2·36	1·53	·10	·99
Russell,	·29	1·51	1·21	1·73	2·08	·11	·36
Selkirk,	·51	1·31	2·58	2·62	2·76	·25	·47
Shoal Lake,	·25	·85	1·06	4·81	·94	·70	·00
Turtle Mountain,	·45	1·03	1·47	1·79	1·59		
Winnipeg,	·96	1·58	2·31	5·38	1·00		1·31
Rosebank,	·22	·85	3·02	6·28	1·94	·34	
Rathwell,	·15	1·32	2·56	5·23	2·41	·53	1·51
Stony Mountain,	·46	·90	2·00	4·67	1·36		
Souris,					2·27	·34	1·48
Average,	·42	·95	2·02	3·75	1·95	1·36	1·09

Total for the season of 1897, 10·50.

Where blanks are left, no report was received. Two ciphers indicate that there was no rainfall.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The following quotations from general remarks indicate fairly the opinions of correspondents throughout the province :—

NORTH-WESTERN DISTRICT.—Nice crops, good prices. stock in fine shape for the winter, and abundance of good feed for them. Everyone satisfied with the outlook at present. There should be steps taken towards the destruction of noxious weeds in this township. This fall has been remarkable for its fineness, and all out-door work has been pushed on vigorously, and is greatly in advance of other years. Wheat being such a good price this fall, the farmers are all in good circumstances. This has been a good year for the stock, but has been too dry for the grain, although wheat and oats are of the best quality. Stock is in good order. Farmers are well-to-do. Debts are paid. Grain was damaged by spring frosts, as seeding is very early in this township. This year the late sown wheat was the best. If the G. N. W. Central Railway is extended next year, as promised, the people in this section of the country will be happy. This was a grand fall, more fall plowing done than any year yet. The price of grain stimulated farmers to prepare for a large crop next year. Good government, good crops, pretty good prices, contented people. We had a very fine looking crop of wheat, but too many "dead heads" for it to turn out well. This has been the best year for the farmers in the last ten years. Farmers getting into better shape financially, and a more hopeful spirit pervades all, instanced by contemplated improvements. This has been the finest fall I ever saw, but the ground very dry. Another year like this will put farmers on good footing, as both grain and stock have been a good price.

SOUTH WESTERN DISTRICT.—Any amount of room for emigrants of the right kind. Farmers are in a prosperous condition owing to the advance in the price of wheat. A large acreage is looked for next year. Prospects are good for a big crop next year. This year the wheat was good, nearly all No. 1 hard. The weather has been very dry, and I am afraid the plowing has not been well done. There is very little butter made in this township for sale. The fall plowing is badly done, the land being too hard to plow. We can look for weedy crops next year on fall plowing. While the yield has not been up to expectation, the price has made up for it. More fall plowing has been done than usual. Fall plowing was all done early. Wheat so far has been

No. 1. Oats scarce. People are working away and feel satisfied. The best year on record, as we had good crops, and good prices, from 69 to 80 cents. per bushel for wheat. Crops light, prices good. The financial position of farmers is better than ever since the district was settled. All wheat land is plowed and mostly all harrowed, so spring work will be light. There is apt to be a scarcity of fodder. This has been the driest year that we have ever seen in this township. The farmers have plowed up and harrowed all the land they could get ready for next year, thus showing that they have plenty of confidence in this province. Prices are good, farmers are paying off their debts. Cattle and horses in good order—all fat. Plowing well ahead. Owing to shortage of coarse grains, many pigs and cattle have been disposed of. Not many cattle will be fed this winter owing to this and shortage of hay. Everything flourishing, and everybody happy and contented. Plenty to live on. Best year we have had in seventeen years; crop light and easily handled, small expenses. Farmers feel as if it had been an era of prosperity with them. Although crops were light prices were good, and most all have lifted all their due and overdue paper. Our township is improving fast. We need better sires to breed from; our stock is not what it should be. Good price for wheat has quite made up for small yields, but loss of crop is felt very much, but, as a whole, we have much to be thankful for.

NORTH CENTRAL DISTRICT.—Apparently plenty of feed with the exception of oats. Coarse grains are not very plentiful, farmers are substituting bran and corn. On account of "dead heads" in wheat, yield was not so good as expected. We have had a very dry fall. Many wells have gone dry. On the whole, the season has been a very favorable one, and we have little to complain of. The yield has been rather light owing to the lack of showers. A fairly good and prosperous year for farmers. Demand good, and prices high for everything there is to sell. The country was never better financially, and never was out-door labour so far advanced. Though the general average of grain and roots was low, yet the prices range higher, and consequently the farmers are much better off. This year has been a good one for farmers, prices being good, and no drawbacks of any kind. Everything seems in a prosperous condition. Good demand for everything.

SOUTH CENTRAL DISTRICT.—The price of wheat caused the farmers to sell all they could spare. A splendid round-up. All

ready for seeding next year. We are all pleased and hopeful for 1898. Wheat did not turn out as expected. This fall has been very fine. Grain good quality, but low yield. Coarse grains and feed will be scarce this winter. The yield of wheat was disappointing, but the good prices counter-balanced it. It was a good paying crop. Grain was all threshed in good condition. Ground somewhat dry for plowing. Cattle gone into winter quarters in good condition. Farm hands were plentiful at the beginning of harvest, but all got work when threshing commenced.

EASTERN DISTRICT.—Owing to good prices for wheat farmers are jubilant, and will sow a large acreage next year. Oats are very scarce, and hard to buy at any price. We had very heavy straw, but the yield was not what we expected in our August report. The yield in proportion to the straw has been very disappointing, but with the excellent quality and better prices, the outlook is satisfactory.



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